Syrian-Pakistani Relations

Citing an "official Syrian source," AFP reported that Syria has refused to extradite the three Pakistani hijackers who surrendered to the Damascus authorities on 14 March. Since there is no extradition agreement between Pakistan and Syria, the hijackers will be allowed to stay in Syria until they can obtain political asylum in a country of their choice. Karachi radio earlier reported that Pakistan had officially asked Syria to hand over the hijackers.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Meeting—Tunis radio reported that the 75th ordinary session of the Arab League Council opened in Tunis. Speeches by PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah focused on the Palestinian problem, the radio noted. During a closed session the council discussed other items, including the U.S. supply of nuclear reactors to Israel, the radio added.

Kuwaiti Comment on Camp David--An AS-SIYASAH editorial, reviewed by KUNA, defended Egypt for signing the Camp David agreements with Israel under U.S. auspices. It pointed out that the abrogation of the agreements would not be in the interest of the world's confidence in the Arabs, and it urged the Arabs to wait for time to prove who will be the winner and who will be the loser from these agreements.

YAR

San'a' radio reported that the People's Constituent Assembly has removed parliamentary immunity from former Foreign Minister 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Majid al-Asnaj. According to an earlier report by the Egyptian news agency MENA, the move follows the arrest of Al-Asnaj on treason charges and prepares the way for his trial before a supreme constitutional court.

Iran

Tehran radio reported that after continuous efforts, fire brigade officials gained control of a fire at the headquarters of the Central Islamic Revolution Committee. According to AFP, the fire engulfed an ammunition depot housed there.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that an Iraqi onslaught on the Gilan-e Gharb front was repulsed with heavy losses. On the other hand, an Iraqi General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio's overseas service, claimed that Iranian units in the Gilan-e Gharb, Mehran, Shush and Susangerd regions were forced to retreat.

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ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL OPENS IN TUNIS 23 MAR

LD240052 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] The 75th ordinary session of the Arab League Council opened in Tunis this evening. A large number of Arab foreign ministers attended the meeting which was also attended by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, opened the session in his capacity as chairman of the past session of the council. He was followed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah in his capacity as chairman of the current session, and by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

In his speech Qaddumi said the Palestinian people, wherever they are, particularly in the occupied territory, have been ruthlessly struggling against deportation, annexation and the establishment of Zionist settlements on their lands. He added the Palestinian people hope now more than ever before that the Arabs will put aside their differences so that they can thwart the plots around them.

He then spoke of the sufferings in the Lebanese and Palestinian camps there because of the repeated and escalating Israeli aggressions.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah said one of the most important matters the Arab nation has to tackle in the present critical stage we are going through is the escalating Zionist threat in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories and the enemy expansionist designs which the enemy has gone a long way toward implementing--devouring land, expelling its legitimate owners and planting Zionist settlements in it. Among the matters to be tackled are the repressive criminal measures used by the Zionist enemy against the struggling Palestinian people. He then lauded the efforts exerted by the Arab League for the elimination of bilateral conflicts among the Arab countries.

In his speech Chedli Klibi dealt with a number of issues pertaining to the role of Arab information abroad and the achievements made by the Arab League in collaboration with the OAU for bolstering Arab-African cooperation. He also reviewed the contacts he had with the European side in the European-Arab dialogue which resulted in the official declaration about the resumption of that dialogue during the second half of this year.

He also spoke of the contacts he made with a large number of world officials in the service of Arab causes and particularly the Palestinian question.

The Arab League Council then went into closed session under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister.

Following the closed session an Arab League secretariat spokesman said that at the beginning of the session, the council approved its agenda--adding one extra item dealing with the American supply of nuclear reactors to Israel, on the suggestion of the Syrian delegation. Thereupon, he added, the various issues were distributed among the council's five committees: the political committee, the economic committee, the social and cultural committee, the legal committee and the financial and administrative committee.

The council then began discussion of the first item on its agenda, dealing with the Arab League Charter and the development of its systems and modes of operation. The heads of delegation of Iraq, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Syria participated in the discussion on this matter. They stressed the importance of speeding up the amendment of the charter.

Some speakers said the league has been discussing the question of developing its charter since 1958.

The delegations expressed determination to refer the issue to the forthcoming summit conference. But the political committee decided that the representatives of governments should continue their meetings in May to consider the amendment of the charter.

They decided to refer the results of their work to the Arab League Council, meeting in special session at ministerial level on 3 and 4 September, prior to the next ordinary session of the council, which will be held 5, 6 and 7 September.

The spokesman added that the council then began discussion of the second item on the agenda, which deals with the Israeli plan for a canal linking the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea. It studied the report submitted by the league's secretariat general.

The delegation heads of Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Jordan participated in the discussion of the item.

At the same time the council discussed the item proposed by Syria, namely, the U.S. supply of nuclear reactors to Israel. The discussions focused on the gravity of these two items. The delegates were unanimous on the need for speedy practical steps to deal with them.

ARAB LEAGUE'S KLIBI DISCUSSES GULF, IRAQ-IRAN WAR

LD231049 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 20 Mar 81 pp 27-29

[Interview granted by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to Sulayman al-Farzali in Tunis--date not given]

[Excerpts] Al-HAWADITH: More than 18 months have elapsed, Mr Secretary General, since the Arab League moved to Tunis and a new charter was supposed to be issued. But it appears that the new charter is meeting with difficulties and obstacles.

Secretary general: I do not think that the terms "difficulties and obstacles" are apposite here because the development plan includes several projects aimed at developing the administrative and financial organizations as well as the charter itself. These projects require greater consideration and thorough study by the member states on various levels. The committee, which began its work several months ago, may seem to be slow and so this could be attributed to difficulties. It is natural that the committee should encounter many problems but every time it does so it overcomes them. In fact, this slowness of work is a good sign and indicates the seriousness of the work the countries are doing this time in order to develop the charter and the administrative and financial organizations. If the countries were to agree superficially on the projects submitted to them we would have had reason to worry and their action would have been construed as taking the development projects lightly. But since this has taken a large number of meetings it is an indication that the member states are resolved to organize the league on new bases so that joint action will be given a new momentum.

AL-HAWADITH: Mr Secretary General, in the Gulf region we hear a different view of the Arab League. It is said that the Arab Gulf is a regional unit (the Gulf Cooperation Council), that Egypt has left the Arab League and that there is the Islamic Conference Organization which embodies all. Is the Arab League no longer important given the existence of the regional organization and the Islamic Conference?

Secretary general: I am astonished by this analysis and I do not think that officials with experience in Arab affairs would think so. With regard to the Cooperation Council established by the Gulf states, the statement issued by the constituent meeting indicates that this council has been established within the framework of the Arab League. This new structure created in the Gulf is being set within the Arab League framework by its own authors as recognition on their part that every step they take to bring the Gulf countries closer to each other is in fact a strengthening of the league's edifice. It is understood that the Arab Maghreb countries some time ago considered establishing an organization similar to that set up by the Gulf countries.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there a new initiative by the Arab League to resume efforts to solve the Lebanese problem?

Secretary general: Let us be frank. I can allow myself to be frank because I have a special love for Lebanon, and because of this love I clearly and sincerely say that the responsibility for the situation in Lebanon is shared: one part Arab and the other part Lebanese.

The Arab part of the responsiblity was evident a few years ago in the success in stopping the civil war that broke out. Thank God we have succeeded to a great extent in stopping the internal sedition. Maybe views differ over the ways, the means and the results but in general the civil war has stopped. This is not something to be belittled. Moreover, the Arab states have given considerable aid so that Lebanon can alleviate the impact of destruction. This was the Arab contribution.

But it remains the responsibility of the Lebanese leaders--and here I do not mean only the political leaders but also cultural and spiritual leaders--to search for detente and a basis for detente. This is particularly true after the Lebanese president's speech in which he summed up the principles which could be the basis for dialogue among the various factions and ideological and spiritual families in Lebanon. Therefore, the head of the Lebanese state must be given a helping hand to strengthen and expand this dialogue so that Lebanon will restore its integrity which it enjoyed after it was established.

Unfortunately, this has not happened. Frankly, only very little of it has happened, which is not enough to make it possible to overcome the present crisis, which is tearing the Lebanese social fabric, and move into a new era of rapprochement and amity motivated by a collective will to build Lebanese society on a new and healthier basis.

AL-HAWADITH: The final question concerns the Iraq-Iran war and the differences in the Arab attitude toward this war. We have heard from Iraq and those who agree with it that had the Arab countries stood with Iraq politically it would have been easier to find a solution to the problem because Arab weight would be effective in bringing the fighting parties to the negotiating table and finding a peaceful solution to the problem. How far was the Arab League interested in bringing the matter closer to a solution and influencing the course of events?

Secretary general: Although the Iran-Iraq war concerns two countries of which one is Arab and the other is not, we took interest in this problem before and after the outbreak of war in an attempt to ease the differences between the two sides and to initiate a dialogue between the two neighboring countries. I personally made efforts in this regard with the two sides and stressed the need for understanding on the basis of right, good-neighbor relations and the Islamic ties that link the two countries. I conveyed this to the Iranian leaders in various ways. I recall in particular the opportunity I had to do this when an Iranian delegation came to Tunisia when the 10th Arab summit was being held in Tunis. At that time I met with the Iranian delegation and discussed all aspects of this problem and the then problem of the hostages.

Perhaps I can say now that I was one of the first who suggested to Imam Khomeyni releasing the hostages and thus yielding to the PLO mediation and Brother Yasir 'Arafat's intercession so that this would be a political gain for the PLO and would open the doors for it to public opinion in North and South America, and particularly the United States. But unfortunately this suggestion did not find a responsible ear.

Now we can only wish that agreement will be reached between the two peoples, that the efforts by the Islamic Conference Organization will succeed in halting the war between Iraq and Iran and that detente will be established between the two countries on the basis of right, good-neighbor relations and Islamic brotherhood.

GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED 27 MAR

LD220956 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0845 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Mar (SPA)--Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization Habib Chatti has stated that the Islamic good offices committee, which is trying to end the conflict between Iraq and Iran, will hold its forthcoming meeting in Jidda on 27 March.

In a statement to SPA following today's meetings in Jidda between committee chairman and President of Guinea Ahmed Sekou Toure and the other two committee members, Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman and Habib Chatti, Chatti said that the meeting will discuss the replies of Iraq and Iran to the committee's proposals as well as the committee's plan of action in the next stage.

He added that the committee will make at this forthcoming meeting all the necessary resolutions to complete its mediation between the two fraternal conntries and to put an end to the war between them which only benefits the enemies of the Islamic nation.

PROCEEDINGS OF AAPSO MEETING IN PDRY 21, 22 MAR

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Speech

LD222328 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1255 GMT 21 Mar 81 EA

[Speech by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, at opening session of 13th AAPSO General Assembly in Aden on 21 March--recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades, chairman and members of the AAPSO presidium and permanent secretariat, comrades and friends; in the name of our Yemeni people, our socialist party and our government, I have the pleasure of warmly hailing the convening of the 13th meeting of the AAPSO General Assembly which is being convened today in our country. I am happy on this great occasion to convey to you the feelings of pride and appreciation of the Yemeni masses at your choosing Aden as the venue for this great solidarity meeting which comprises representatives of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and their generous forces which are struggling for liberation, democracy, peace and socialism and which reject subordination, colonialism, wars, international terrorism and all forms of relations based on oppression and exploitation.

Our Yemeni people, who today, with love, welcome and rejoicing, host this solidarity meeting, register high appreciation of the solidarity activities and stands carried out by the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization in the field of supporting and backing the just struggle of our Yemeni people since the outbreak of the 26 September and 14 October glorious revolutions; [applause] in mobilizing extensive world support for our national struggle for safegaurding independence and national sovereignty, achieving social progress, restoring the unity of the homeland on peaceful and democratic bases and confronting imperialist and reactionary plots and designs aimed at sabotaging our peaceful march toward building and developing a new life.

Experience has confirmed the truth that the people who struggle for their freedom and progress cannot remain alone in this age which is full of revolutions of peoples struggling against world imperialism, colonialism and racism side by side with the struggle of the peoples of socialist countries and workers of the capitalist countries and all the democracy and peace-loving forces in the world.

It is not strange for the struggle of all the liberation, socialism and peace-loving forces to unite on one course because it is the world imperialist system which gave birth to fascism and political terrorism, established arenas of death and promoted two world wars, and which destroyed the lives of tens of millions, and planted racist and dictatorial regimes in Asia, Africa and Latin America, that is responsible for the misery, disease and illiteracy which are annihilating tens of millions of people in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

It is also historically inevitable for the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism to merge with the course of struggle for socialism and peace and all the generous forces in the world to stand in solidarity against the tyranny of the imperialist monopolies so that mankind may live free from war, hunger and fear.

Comrades and friends: The struggle for the cause of peace today occupied a leading position in the activities of all the honorable strugglers in the world. This is deemed to be a confirmation of the correctness of the course of the world revolutionary process in our current age which has contributed towards confrontation against the plots of the imperialist forces. It has exposed the face of the ugly aggression some of whose manifestations have come to light prominently and distinctly in numerous areas of the world which are today exposed to dangers of the aggressive tendency of world imperialism which threatens world peace.

Although the world revolutionary movement, thanks to the alliance of its basic forces, has managed to end the period of struggle against outmoded colonialism, the remnants of that outmoded colonialist system have now become the vanguards of the imperialist, aggressive and terrorist activities against the peoples struggling for progress and peace.

Israel, which represents a settler colonialist entity, continues, through the direct instigation and backing of the United States, its disavowal of the rights of our Palestinian Arab people by occupying Arab territories and continuing to establish Zionist settlements there; to change their geographical and demographic character; to blow up peaceful buildings, assassinate nationalist strugglers and leaders and mass thousands of innocent people in prisons without trials; and continues to commit aggression against south Lebanon through collusion with secessionist groups and tendencies with a view to dividing Lebanon into weak denominational entities and embarking on proclaiming Jerusalem as its capital, defying, in all this, resolutions of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, international organizations and world public opinion.

It is obvious that the joint activities of Israel and American imperialism, at the political level in the Middle East, led to the signing of the Camp David accord and the Israeli-Egyptian treaty which failed to restore the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and bring about Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and achieve a just peace in the Middle East.

On the other hand they succeeded in restoring imperialist military bases to Egypt and the Red Sea and holding joint maneuvers there with the aim of conspiring against the Palestinian revolution and the progressive and nationalist regimes in Syria, Libya, Algeria, Ethiopia and Democratic Yemen as a preliminary step toward restoring imperialist domination over the entire Arab region and continuing to plunder its resources and hamper the struggle of its peoples for liberation, progress, democratic pan-Arab unity and peace.

The Camp David accords, which were rejected by Arab peoples, did not lead to peace nor was that their aim. But they opened wide the doors of the area for imperialist penetration, encouraged the strengthening of the reactionary forces and led to the creation of splits and divisions in the body of the Arab homeland. This was the true aim of the Camp David accords. After the truth was revealed and the parties to Camp David reached a deadlock with regard to the Middle East problem, numerous attempts took place to reduce these parties from falling out, including an attempt in the form of the so-called European initiative which we rejected.

Therefore we stress that the just and comprehensive solution cannot be achieved except by recognizing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people who are struggling, under the leadership of the PLO, to fulfill their just national aims, including their right to establish their national, independent and sovereign state and recover the occupied Arab territories. [applause]

We seize this opportunity to express our appreciation of and pride in the support and solidarity (?embodied) by AAPSO through its stands of solidarity with our Arab peoples and the Palestinian Arab people. We also value the stands of support adopted by the other friendly peoples. In this respect I would like to point out that the Soviet proposals declared by Comrade Leonid Brezhnev at the 26th CPSU Congress for solving the Middle East problem are regarded by us as realistic and practical proposals for finding a just and comprehensive solution to the explosive and critical situation in the Middle East region [applause] and for the sake of strengthening the liberation and democratic struggle of our Arab peoples in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and their agents in the Arab region.

We will support the Palestinian revolution. We will always stand alongside the unity of the land and people of Lebanon. We will continue to offer brotherly support to the revolution in Oman. [applause] We will continue support for the Saharan revolution under the leadership of the Polisario [applause] and for those struggling for the removal of American bases from their countries. We will offer the necessary support and we will also strive to maintain the role of the countries of the Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation in liberation on a pan-Arab scale.

At the same time we will strive, in cooperation with our brothers all over the Arab world, for the reinforcement of this struggle in order to thwart all the designs and intentions of our common enemy.

We would like to seize this opportunity to express our full solidarity with the struggle of all the nationalist and progressive forces in Egypt and to assure our struggling Arab people in Egypt that despite all the attempts that were made to isolate Egypt from the body of the Arab homeland, Egypt will remain attached to the body of the Arab homeland and the Arab homeland will remain with the people of Egypt. [applause]

What is happening in the Middle East region--complication of the situation due to the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracy--is widening to cover other areas. What is happening in the Gulf region and the Indian Ocean is an extension of the same conspiracy in the Middle East region. In the light of this it is necessary to have great concern about the situation in the Gulf region, the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. These areas today represent a major arena for the implementation of aggressive military schemes against the developing and exploited countries in particular and against world peace in general.

In the wake of the palpable awakening of the national liberation movement [word indistinct] the peoples of this region rich in natural resources and after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the entrenchment of the two progressive regimes in Democratic Yemen and socialist Ethiopia and the strengthening of the peaceful course pursued by the two parts of Yemen to achieve the restoration of the unity of the homeland and the Yemeni people on peaceful and democratic bases guided by the principles of the glorious 26 September and 14 October revolutions [applause]--in the wake of the all this, the imperialist circles embarked on expanding their aggressive military activities against this region.

The scope of these activities has recently widened through the establishment of arsenals of nuclear weapons on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean and in the military bases recently established in Oman, Somalia and Egypt, and through the movement of naval fleets, the holding of military exercises in Oman and the carrying out of provocations on our eastern border [word indistinct] intervention in the affairs of the region, threatening its security and peace.

In the framework of these imperialist conspiracies aimed at heightening tension, igniting local wars in the region, weakening the unity and solidarity of the region's states and peoples and obstructing the efforts being made for coordination and cooperation among themselves--in all this, comrades and friends, we feel that all honorable people who [sentence continues]

cherish the cause of peace and stability in the world should work to secure this region against the dangers of the aggressive tendencies of the world imperialist powers, the outcome of which will not be confined to the regional context of our area only but will extend to inflict serious harm on the security and peace of the peoples of Asia, Africa and the Third World.

On the basis of this we have from the outset regarded the Iraq-Iran war as not serving the interests of the two fraternal and neighboring peoples but as giving the imperialist powers valuable political and military opportunities to justify their conspiratorial designs against the security, stability and process of the peoples of the region. Accordingly, we have from the outset called for unrelenting efforts to protect security and peace in this region by which we mean the Arab Peninsula, the Gulf, the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean in order to secure it against the threat of imperialist military presence and maintain the national sovereignty of its states and peoples.

We are confident of support for our just struggle for peace and to ward off the specter of war from all good forces represented in your organization. We are confident of the effective role which your organization may play in gaining wide support from world public opinion to back our just causes.

Comrades and friends: Just as the imperialist and reactionary forces opposed the Yemeni revolution and the Ethiopian revolution and ignited numerous regional conflicts and aggressive wars, they are now playing in Afghanistan that aggressive and antiprogress and antipeace role. We consider that the solving of the so-called Afghan problem must be connected with an end to interference by the imperialist and reactionary circles in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. In this connection our country considers the proposals put forward by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan concerning direct negotiations between it and the states neighboring it as a means for strengthening the pillars of stability and security for the Republic of Afghanistan and the states neighboring it.

Comrades and friends: A glance at the developments being witnessed by independent developing states reveals to us the extent of the dangers emanating from the vicious aggressive designs which are striving for (?entrenchment of) the (?forces of) world imperialism for the purpose of wresting the political and economic initiative from the independent developing countries. These latter, thanks to their nationalist liberation movement and the revolutionary support they receive from the socialist countries, have become an effective force in international society and a basic factor of struggle for changing the image of the unjust international economic relations toward a new world economic order that will keep mankind away from the [word indistinct] of abnormal economic disasters and crises which are closely linked with the defeated world capitalist system.

Truly, the independent developing countries are currently playing an effective and active part in international relations by serving the causes of peace, national independence and economic and social progress. They are, however, exposed to (?extensive) and multifarious forms of resistance on the part of the forces of world imperialism, which have started practising the [word indistinct] of neocolonialism through the [word indistinct] of multinational companies, monopolist trade practices, international monetary systems and all forms of hegemony over the potentials and resources of the peoples of developing countries by way of [words indistinct] treaties. Added to these are the means and methods of blackmail and international terrorism, which express the aggressive militarist tendency of world imperialism.

It is confirmed, friends, that the acts of military aggression against independent developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America are in conformity with the tendency of adventurism, the recreation of the cold war atmosphere and attempts to sabotage security in Europe through frightening increases in military expenditure and the strengthening of war manifestations in Europe, which were crowned by the U.S. administration's decision to freeze the SALT II agreement and the NATO alliances decision to deploy new nuclear missiles in Europe. We therefore call on all the forces of peace and democracy, which cherish the cause of security and stability for all mankind, to denounce and condemn the aggressive tendencies of the present U.S. administration and to bring various forms of pressure to bear in order to strengthen international detente and peace in view of the fact that these constitute the two fundamental conditions for the development and progress of our peoples and the protection of the security of the whole of mankind.

Comrades and friends: The struggle of the peoples of Africa and Asia has been linked with that of various other countries striving for national liberation and social progress. In this context the outstanding activities of your organization have been combined with those of many other movements and organizations, including the Nonaligned Movement, which has performed a mighty and colossal role since it was formed and has been a significant supporter of the struggle waged by our peoples for national independence, economic and political liberation and the elimination of the influence of imperialism and of all forms of colonialism and neocolonialism. Accordingly, as we hail the role of the Nonaligned Movement, we feel that the current situation, rendered complex by aggressive imperialist tendencies and their effect on our peoples, demands the strengthening and consolidation of cooperation between AAPSO and the Nonaligned Movement to reinforce and unite our efforts to serve out joint struggle on various fronts. [applause]

Comrades and friends: AAPSO has held many functions in our country. The holding of this council serves to reaffirm the militant cohesion between our Yemeni people and the peoples of Asia and Africa. Moreover, the organization's active role of reinforcing solidarity among peoples occupies a great and prominent place in the context of the democratic liberation struggle of our Asian and African peoples. Due to the gravity of the current international situation and the increased dangers threatening our peoples and due to the solidarity organizations active and effective role in supporting the struggle of our peoples, I wish to emphasize that within the bounds of our resources and within the bonds of our country's resources we will offer your organization every support and assistance to enable it to do its duty in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, Zionism and reaction. [applause]

We are confident that your council will pay particular attention to the reinforcement of the organization's status and capabilities so as to enable it to discharge its noble duties in the service of our peoples.

Comrades and friends: During the past 2 decades your organization has played a prominent part in support of the causes of national liberation of the peoples of Asia and Africa and in the strengthening of the bonds of militant solidarity among the worlds revolutionary forces. You are faced today, at this historic meeting, with the task of defining, clearly and precisely, your aims during this new historic stage in the struggle of the peoples of Asia and Africa, which demands consolidation of the national liberation movements victories in these two continents; the foiling of imperialist designs and reactionary activities; the sustained development of militant solidarity relations between the peoples of Asia and Africa and their progressive forces; the unmasking of all forms and methods applied by world imperialism's aggressive military tendency, and the raising of the banner of struggle for peace on this planet.

We are confident of AAPSO's ability to shoulder the tasks facing it at this critical stage in the history of the world national liberation movement of the Asian and African peoples.

Finally, I wish the proceedings of your 13th general assembly every success in arriving at results capable of contributing toward the reinforcement of AAPSO's work in every field. Thank you.

Yasir 'Arafat Speech

LD231830 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1250 GMT 22 Mar 81 EA

["Text" of speech by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on 22 March at 13th AAPSO session in the hall of the higher school for scientific socialism in Khormaksar--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brother Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, brother chairman of the conference, brothers, guests, members of this conference: Permit me to express on behalf of the Palestinian revolution and people and on your behalf our deep gratitude to brother Chairman 'Ali Nasir, the YSP and the fraternal people of Democratic Yemen for holding and hosting this international conference, which is being convened under very grave international conditions and in the face of challenges to our region and country and people--indeed to the entire world. [applause]

Today we face not only neo-Nazi racist Zionism, not only the agents of imperialism and colonialism in our country and region but we have been destined to confront imperialism led by the U.S. administration, which, for the first time since Vietnam, has made a decision, a most dangerous decision--dangerous not only for our region but also for the peace of the whole world. It is not merely by chance that there is assembling in our region now a veritable blockade--now, as we talk, as we meet here in steadfast Aden, in revolutionary Aden, in the embrace of these militant, revolutionary, progressive, democratic and heroic people with their wise leadership--the leadership of Brother 'Ali Nasir. [applause] I say that this meeting is not taking place by mere chance, but you all know about the difficult circumstances faced by this organization of ours before this meeting.

Brothers, comrades: It is not merely by chance that our region is now being blockaded by three U.S. fleets, namely the 5th, 6th and 7th Fleets in the Indian Ocean, in the Gulf, in the Red Sea, in the Mediterranean Sea. And that is not all, for U.S. imperialism has also established bases in this region, regrettably in Egypt, in the western desert, in Sinai, in [name indistinct], in Ras Banat on the Red Sea and in Somalia's Berbera, in Mombasa, Kenya and in Oman's Masirah. And even that is not all: There is also an aggressive nuclear base belonging to the United States in Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Thirty-six Indian Ocean littoral states are having their destinies threatened; their security threatened, and consequently the security of the world is being threatened by this nuclear threat of U.S. imperialism. [applause]

In view of the difficult conditions and dangerous confrontations and critical circumstances we are experiencing, it is no accident, brothers, that during a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir when he recently visited the United States, Bush described the PLO as a terrorist organization involved with international terrorism along with the USSR and Cuba. I say to him: If involvement means helping liberation movements in the world, then we are--we are involved with the whole world. [applause] We are involved and we are happy and proud of it--proud that we are involved--not just involved, but in partnership with all the world's liberation movements against imperialism, against Zionism, against colonialism, against racial discrimination, against the neo-Nazim being given birth to by the United States in its bridgehead in our country, in our region, which is now called Israel.

What this means is that the United States, through Bush, is telling Shamir: Continue with your officially organized terrorist work against the PLO and against its allies in the Lebanese arena, namely the Lebanese nationalist movement with whom we share a trench against threats and dangers. Brothers: It is one of the ludicrous things of the age that Bush should say such a thing to Shamir--Shamir who is wanted by Interpol, not because of any Arab complaint, or because of a complaint from progressives, or a complaint from the Democrats, but on the basis of evidence held by the British police, the allies of U.S. imperialism. On the basis of these documents, it was this fellow Shamir who killed Count Bernadotte and is wanted by Interpol as an international terrorist. Moreover, his boss, Begin, admits in his book, which he called "THE REVOLT," that it was by means of terrorism that he succeeded in establishing the State of Israel on the ruins of our homeland, Palestine. That is what he admits. Begin is also wanted by Interpol as a terrorist. I say it is one of the ludicrous things of the age that the United States should seek the help of international terrorists so that it can say: International terrorism is led by the USSR, the PLO and Cuba. Brothers, is this not shameful? Is it not not a crime for Bush to say such a thing to Shamir?

What does this mean, brothers? He is telling them that there is an American green light to continue the aggression against the PLO. It is no coincidence that Eytan should say: Our war with the Palestinians will not end until one side founders. He then arrogantly added: We shall not founder--he means themselves.

And that is not all. Begin says: We shall face the PLO with methods unknown to the devil himself. I want to say to him on behalf of the Palestinian revolution, on behalf of the Lebanese-Palestinian joint forces, that despite Israeli-U.S. international terrorism, which is officially organized, which uses the most modern U.S. weapons. [sentence as heard]

That is not all, brothers. Southern Lebanon is now a field for experiments against the Lebanese fighter and his Palestinian brother. It is a field for experiments against the Palestinian people and against the Lebanese people in southern Lebanon. And that is not all, my brothers. They are using the latest U.S. weapons there, including those which are internationally banned, such as cluster bombs, fragmentation shells, (jutbombs), napalm and other weapons we have not yet identified.

I say this, brothers: As we stand in the forward trench in defense of the Palestinian revolution, I say what our brothers of the nationalist movement said: We shall die defending the Palestinian revolution. We shall fight so that the Palestinian revolution can live. I tell my brothers of the nationalist movement who are closely linked to us in the same trench. We shall not die. We shall triumph together with these comrades in this hall who support us. [applause]

Brothers: The U.S. President and the U.S. administration, after Vietnam, have issued orders for the Rapid Deployment Force to be sent to this region. Then, full of arrogance, he says: The auxiliary [radif] for the Rapid Deployment Force is the Israeli Army and the agents and stooges in this region--and there are many of them, but I do not want to name them [words indistinct].

I have facts for those who talk about international terrorism, for those who say that the USSR, the PLO and Cuba are leaders of international terrorism. I want to tell them: International terrorism is the use of the F-15 and F-16, the use of fleets, the 5th, the 6th and 7th Fleets, the use of the advanced watchdog, namely, the Israeli forces, against the Palestinian people, against the Lebanese people. This is organized international terrorism.

I say this knowing that Haig is about to visit the region to seek new bases and facilities for U.S. fleets in the region. I say this knowing that Reagan said in his first interview after his election victory that the PLO is a terrorist organization. But I want to tell him that the PLO is (?above being) called terrorist. Once Comrade Mugabe was called a terrorist. Where is Comrade Mugabe today? He is the prime minister of Zimbabwe. Welcome to you, Comrade Mugabe. [applause]

Comrade Brezhnev stood up in the 26th CPSU Congress, and before that in New Delhi, to make proposals on solutions--practical solutions, principled solutions--and not just for the Middle East problem. But when he spoke about the Middle East, comrade and friend Brezhnev did not forget to mention the PLO specifically, and to say specifically that the least he would accept--that Comrade Brezhnev would accept--was an independent state for the Palestinian people. [applause] We say that he did not just speak about the Middle East but he spoke about the situation in the Indian Ocean. The situation in the Caribbean, the situation in Europe [words indistinct]--all the explosive situations. But he did not restrict himself. He opened the door wide to all sincere efforts, whether they are made in Europe or through the United Nations.

I want to say this because people are talking about a European initiative. They tell me: We have heard about a European initiative. I have heard something. When Thorn came to see me as chairman of the EEC ministerial council, I asked him: What is this European initiative? What European initiative? You were unable to uphold the Venice declaration. You were unable to uphold it for the 15 days between the meeting in Venice and the meeting in Ankara, where [name indistinct] stood up with all arrogance to say: We have refused [short break in transmission] the Ankara declaration to contain anything about the Middle East or the Palestinian people or the rights of the Palestinian people.

The most splendid thing about Comrade Brezhnev (?making) that move is that Comrade Brezhnev responded to the aspirations of our Arab nation. He did not concentrate on [UN Resolution] 242 because we of the Palestinian revolution say that 242 cannot constitute a basis for solving the Middle East problem because it regards our people as a handful of refugees. No. We are the existing fundamental reality in the Middle East equation. That is what Comrade Brezhnev concentrated on. He (?referred) to the PLO, an independent state for it. [applause]

In the United States they cannot ignore Comrade Brezhnev's proposals--the proposals he started in New Delhi and whose fundamental and broad outline he formulated at the 26th CPSU Congress. They can accuse the USSR, the PLO and Cuba of being thugs for as long as they like, but they cannot say that there are no positive and important elements in Comrade Brezhnev's proposals.

Here, on behalf of the Palestinian revolution, on behalf of the Palestinian revolutionaries and, if you will permit me, Brother Chairman 'Ali Nasir, to say on behalf of our Arab nation, on behalf of the free men of our Arab nation: I welcome these proposals considering them (?suitable) [applause] for solving the Middle East problem. [prolonged applause]

We of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, on the basis of Brother 'Ali Nasir's proposal to hold an urgent meeting of the states of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front--the PLO declared that it welcomed the invitation and we made it a condition that the meeting be held here in Aden to confront the challeges in the region. [applause] [sentence as heard] I think at the beginning of the first week of next month there will be a meeting of the political committee of the foreign ministers of the states of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front [words indistinct].

One day I met Comrade Brezhnev. I was talking with him and said: Comrade Brezhnev, we, the Palestinian people, who number 4 million, are suffering and there are imperialist powers [words indistinct] and I was talking like that to him and he said to me: Comrade 'Arafat, you are not 4 million. You are 264 million people. [applause] I said: You are quite right, we are 264 million. Now, standing before you, I feel (?we are) 264 million. I [word indistinct] all these progressive and democratic millions which you honorable and free comrades represent here in this hall.

Brothers: There is no doubt that in these difficult times--and when I say difficult, I mean it--what is happening in the Arab Gulf, very grave indeed. This Iraq-Iran war is a very serious matter, very serious indeed. We oppose this war. From the first moment we opposed it, because it is against the Iranian people and against the Iraqi people and against the peoples of the region and against the Arab nation, and against the Palestinian revolution. From the first moment we in the PLO moved to stop this war. We are proud that we are still contributing, through the Islamic good offices committee and through the Nonaligned Movement's goodwill mission, toward stopping this war. It must be stopped.

From here I appeal to Brother Saddam and Imam Khomeyni. I appeal to them on behalf of the Palestinian revolution, on behalf of Palestine, on behalf of Jerusalem, on behalf of the honorable and free men of this world--I appeal to them to stop this war because the sole beneficiary of the war is America and world imperialism. [applause] Permit me to appeal to them on behalf of you here in this hall to stop the war and to stop it immediately, immediately, immediately. [applause]

I say these things and I want everybody to hear me. Let old Carter and new Reagan hear me. I must tell them there is no option except the Palestinian option. There will be no solution, there will be no stability, peace, [word indistinct] no security in this region by (?disregarding) the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. These rights were sanctioned not only by [word indistinct] but also by Arab summits, Islamic summits, also sanctioned by nonaligned summits, sanctioned by OAU summits--they have been sanctioned by an international agreement at the United Nations which said that the Palestinians have inalienable rights, including their right to return, self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their Palestinian soil.

One day I am sure one of our Palestinian delegations now present here with us will address a request to you, which I am now making: I apply to the AAPSO secretariat for membership for these free revolutionaries from Latin America. [as heard]

I now extend an invitation to you to attend a forthcoming conference, which, God willing, will be held in Arab Jerusalem under the Palestinian flag. [applause]

'ARAFAT ENDS PDRY VISIT, MAKES DEPARTURE STATEMENT

LD232126 Aden ANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Aden, 23 Mar (ANA)--Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and his accompanying delegation left Aden yesterday evening. He was seen off at the airport by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, general secretary of the YSP Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee, ministers, and Palestinians residing in the PDRY.

Prior to his departure Brother Yasir 'Arafat gave a press statement in which he said: Without any doubt I consider this visit one of the most important I have carried out, especially in the present difficult circumstances through which our region--the Middle East and Arab regions--is going. Together with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, I had positive and important talks which covered all political, diplomatic, local, Arab and international spheres.

Our views were in agreement on all the issues with which our talks dealt, whether they were directly or indirectly of concern to our Arab nation and the (?Arab) world, especially to confront these cultural conditions and challenges and the direct military political challenges which we face together, as a Palestinian revolution and a Yemeni revolution, and confront together as a one Arab nation. God willing, together we head for victory.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS HIGHER MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING

JN202001 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1845 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] At noon today brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] presided over a meeting of the Palestinian revolution's Higher Military Council. The council discussed the tense situation in southern Lebanon as a result of the continued military escalation against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

The council also discussed the situation in the occupied land and our people's heroic steadfastness in confronting occupation as well as the daily suppressive practices against the sons of our people.

The council took several measures to confront the situation.

ABU MAYZAR DISCUSSES ISRAELI ELECTIONS, LEBANON

GF211859 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 21 Mar 81 p 17

[Text of interview granted to Khalil at-Tuki by 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee in Damascus--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: The 15th session of the Palestine National Council is being held under very sensitive and complicated Palestinian, Arab and national circumstances. What is your assessment of this Palestinian situation and of Arab disintegration?

Answer: No doubt the 15th session of the Palestine National Council will be held under very important Palestinian, Arab and national circumstances. It will be an important chance for assessing the current issue from all angles. Foremost of what the assembly will discuss, on the Palestinian level, is the safeguarding of the revolution and its continuation in the face of challenges and plots woven against it in the region and outside it. It is evident that the Israeli enemy is preparing a wide-scale aggression against the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese national movement and sister Syria by intensifying tension in Lebanon.

The task of confronting the Camp David plots remains an explicit and implicit principle, which applies to all imperialist and Zionist plots aiming at liquidating the Palestinian issues and Palestinian and Arab rights.

On the Arab level the treatment of the current Arab issue and its shortcomings and disintegration will be among the important issues that the national council will discuss in its forthcoming session. The current Arab situation overburdens the Palestinian revolution because Arab disintegration threatens overall Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue. It has a negative effect on the overall Arab situation because it paves the way for imperialist and Zionist powers to impose their domination over the whole Arab region.

Question: The government-in-exile, which was proposed by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat and blessed by Bruno Kreisky and which was rejected by national Palestinian movements--what are the dangers and threats posed by the declaration of such a government? What are its positive effects? And under what conditions will the PLO form this government?

Answer: More than once we rejected As-Sadat's proposal on the government-in-exile. As-Sadat is not qualified to offer advice to struggling people, as he has sold the sovereignty and independence of Egypt. His proposal is no more than a move to mislead the struggling Arab Egyptian people by pretending to be forming a government and state for the Palestinians. If he were truly seeking their interests, he would not have signed the Camp David agreement, would not have bargained for the Palestinian issue through the autonomy talks and would not have stood with Begin in opposing the Security Council's move to substitute Resolution 242 for another one, which would stipulate the legitimate and firm Palestinian rights, especially their right of self-determination.

The Palestinian revolution shoulders its national and international responsibility. While reiterating its rejection of As-Sadat's suspect call, it knows the appropriate time to form its government--which is the time of liberating all its usurped lands. Moreover, the term "government-in-exile" is an erroneous one because provisional governments and not governments-in-exile are often formed during revolutions when it is felt that the formation of such a government will bolster the struggle and efforts to achieve revolutionary goals. We, in the PLO, do not feel that forming a provisional government at this stage will bolster our struggle.

Question: What is your assessment of the wide national front that former Lebanese President Sulayman Faranjiyah has called for in the Lebanese arena, especially since it will bear directly or indirectly on the Palestinian presence and struggle?

Answer: We, in the PLO, do not interfere in the internal affairs of Arab countries. Forming a wide national front in Lebanon is principally an issue that concerns the Lebanese themselves. The PLO, out of its national commitment, has supported the Lebanese national charter revolutions. At the same time we consider the Palestinian presence in Lebanon a temporary one, and the PLO Executive Committee has affirmed the Arabism, unity and sovereignty of Lebanon and its respect for the Cairo agreements and their addenda regulating Palestinian relations with legitimate Lebanese authorities.

Question: President as-Sadat's recent tour of Europe aimed at depriving the PLO of its legitimate right to represent the Palestinian people, considering the PLO one party and not all parties. What are the steps that have been taken to counter this on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels?

Answer: The PLO's representation of the Palestinian people has become an established fact that As-Sadat and others cannot ignore, because the PLO, in the Palestinian mind, does not mean a mere military organization, but the embodiment of the Palestinian people as an overall political, rightful issue.

Question: Do you see any signs of the birth of an actual European initiative after what was issued at the Venice and Luxembourg summits on the Middle East? And do you expect the European move to reach a peaceful settlement? What are the bases of the PLO's stand on this initiative? Do you feel that Europe is qualified and able to lead a peaceful settlement for the region?

Answer: So far, we cannot say that we are facing a specific and definite European initiative. Rather, we are facing some European ideas, which differ in degree and quality from one European country to another.

Out of its interests and responsibility for the Middle East issues and particularly after the latest developments in Iran brought about by the shah's fall and the developments in Afghanistan, Europe is feeling obliged to the area more than ever. It is trying to formulate the so-called "European initiative." So far, this initiative has not exceeded ideas, intentions and views, which were reversed by the Venice declaration, which did not meet the minimum requirements. We announced our stand on it when it was issued.

Question: Do you see any necessity for ending a dialogue with Jordan after the appearance of what is called the Jordanian option? What are the goals of raising this option by the leaders of new U.S. administration, the Zionist Labor Party and Socialist International?

Answer: The so-called "Jordanian option" is an old, new U.S. Israeli plot. Ever since Arabs adopted the Palestinian option through the Rabat resolutions, Zionist-U.S. circles and all the powers hostile to the Palestinian option have campaigned for the Jordanian option. This option is an overt plot against the real interests of the brotherly Palestinian and Jordanian people.

In the 14th session of the Palestine National Council, it was decided to open a dialogue with Jordan on principles and rules stated through the national council resolutions. The Executive Committee opened this dialogue but results were almost nil. During the previous dialogue it became clear that there was a gap and discord between the Palestinian and Jordanian points of view on many principal issues. Therefore, dialogue was suspended. No doubt the national council will discuss this subject from all sides in its next session and will take resolutions that will serve the principal Palestinian interest. The aim of Reagan's statements, the Labor Party election campaign and some of the Socialist International circles who call for the Jordanian option is to liquidate the Palestinian issue to the disadvantage of the brotherly Palestinian and Jordanian people.

Question: Do you expect changes in Israel's policy after the coming elections that will have a bearing on the conflict with the Zionist enemy?

Answer: In essence, the Labor Party or (al-marakh) coalition under the leadership of Shi'mon Peres does not differ from the Likud coalition under Menahem Begin. Both of them spring from Zionism as a creed and practice. The Likud practices during the past years proved their harmony with [al marakh], which was before the Likud government.

But the change is expected to be in tactics and not in strategy. The Labor Party has more experience in international relations and more experience in practices on the national level. Therefore, we do not have illusions on the nature of (al-marakh). As I have said, it does not differ in essence from the nature of the Likud policy. Of these tactics, the Likud says that the occupied Arab lands are liberated lands whereas (al-marakh) says that they are administered, and it practices the Likud practices on them.

QADDUMI INAUGURATES ARAB-MALTESE SOCIETY

JN240802 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1845 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has inaugurated the Arab-Maltese friendship society in Malta. Archbishop Capucci and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps attended the ceremony.

At the outset of his speech on the occasion Brother Abu al-Lutf conveyed the greetings of Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to the fraternal Maltese people for their support and backing of the Palestinian people's struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Touching on the plots that have been and are still being hatched against our people and revolution and on their failure to discourage our valiant people's determination, Brother Abu al-Lutf condemned the attempts to deport our people and representatives from the occupied homeland. He also detailed the PLO's accomplishments and its position in the Arab and international bodies.

Alluding to the daily steadfastness the Palestinian fighters are upholding against the Zionist plots, Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the Al-Qaramah battle proved the falsehood of Israeli military superiority and demonstrated the Palestinian fighter's capability of confronting this enemy and of facing him everywhere.

Discussing the European initiative Brother Abu al-Lutf asserted that it is affiliated with the U.S. design. He also reiterated the Palestinian revolution's rejection of this initiative.

In conclusion Brother Abu al-Lutf said: What was taken by force must be retrieved by force.

VOP DECRIES ARAB SILENCE ON EGYPT-SUDAN RELATIONS

NC221337 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] Sudan is the first Arab country committed to the Arab summit resolutions to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt. The reason for this, as Sudanese sources say, is Sudan's need to safeguard its national security, particularly since the restoration of relations was associated with a frank Sudanese invitation to the U.S. administration to make military use of Sudan, either by establishing permanent bases or by obtaining military facilities exactly as is happening in Egypt.

Perhaps it is useful to note here that this obvious step by Sudan toward the As-Sadat regime and the United States was preceded by a step connected with the PLO when the Sudanese Government banished the PLO representative and his colleagues without justifications. The step was considered to be a well-studied provocative one that the Sudanese regime adopted to settle previous accounts for the Americans and the As-Sadat regime.

Despite the fact the overall policies of the Sudanese regime since As-Sadat's visit to the Zionist entity has done nothing to encourage the belief that the regime was pursuing the Arab course or was serious in its reserved stand toward the Egyptian regime and the Camp David accords, the adoption of this flagrant step can be considered to be a direct and clear deviation from the minimal Arab level to which Sudan announced it was committed.

Since we are not surprised by the Sudanese regime's rush toward the United States and the As-Sadat regime in view of several factors that are not difficult to understand, we are surprised by the indifference, and lack of enthusiasm in the Arab attitude toward the new Sudanese step, particularly since it came at a time when the Camp David accords are under pressure of strong possibilities of failure as a result of Arab isolation of the As-Sadat regime. Thus Numayri has loosened the grip tightening around the As-Sadat regime.

There have been increasing whispers among the Arab peoples about Numayri's latest stand and its significance in the current Arab political map. The whispers say that perhaps what Numayri has done is an early example for other Arabs who want to restore relations with As-Sadat. Will the Arabs refute this possibility by adopting a serious stand toward the Sudanese regime's latest step, or will these whispers develop into an accusing finger to the so many Arabs who are silent these days?

SAUDI ARABIA

JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN RIYADH

LD210930 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0905 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Mar (SPA)--Marwan al-Qasim, Jordan's foreign minister, this morning arrived in Riyadh carrying a message to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan.

He was met at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, and by Shaykh 'Ali as-Suqayir, head of the Foreign Ministry branch in Riyadh, and a number of other officials.

On his arrival Al-Qasim told SPA that the message he is carrying comes within the framework of existing coordination between the two sister countries. He mentioned that his visit to Saudi Arabia takes place within the framework of visits exchanged by officials in both Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Meeting With Prince Fahd

LD211046 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1005 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Mar (SPA)--His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, at 1245 today received Marwan al-Qasim, Jordan's foreign affairs minister. The minister handed his royal highness a written message from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 2nd deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and commander of the national guard, and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister.

PDRY

PDRY, SYRIAN PARTIES ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE

LD231148 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The YSP and the [Syrian] Socialist Arab Ba'th Party have stressed that the Palestinian cause is the essence of the Zionist-Arab conflict and the principal cause of the Arabs and that it should constitute the basis of the struggle against imperialism and Zionism, as represented by the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine. This was stated in a joint communique issued following the visit to Democratic Yemen by a delegation of the Ba'th Party led by Jabir (Ba Jubud), member of the pan-Arab command and head of the pan-Arab students bureau, at the invitation of the YSP.

The two parties also strongly condemned the two Camp David accords and their aggressive designs and consequences, as well as the so-called European initiative and all treaties, plans and solutions which aimed to liquidate the Palestinian cause, entrench the Zionist occupation of the Arab territories and shatter the Arabs and strike at their unity. The two parties stressed the need for earnest action to bring about a meeting of various groups of the Arab national liberation movement to create a resolute confrontation against the forces of imperialism, Zionism and their allies.

They affirmed their support for the struggle being waged by the Arab people of Egypt together with their nationalist and progressive forces to overthrow the As-Sadat agent regime and restore Egypt to its natural position in the line of confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

They also affirmed support for the struggle of the Lebanese Arab people for national and territorial unity. They strongly condemned Israel's continuing acts of aggression on south Lebanon. They stressed the importance of reinforcing the militant cohesion between Syria and the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese progressive nationalist movement, as a fundamental condition for thwarting the conspiratorial designs in the Lebanese arena.

The YSP and the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party condemned the various conspiracies that aim at liquidating the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon. They also praised the struggles of the Palestinian Arab masses in the occupied Arab territories against the Zionist settlements, and for thwarting the conspiracy of the administrative autonomy.

In the communique the two sides renewed their support for the struggle of the Arab people in Oman, led by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, for eliminating the foreign military presence and establishing a democratic nationalist regime. They also expressed their support for the struggle of the Western Saharan people, led by the Polisario Front, for their right to self-determination.

They stressed the need for reinforcing the bonds of the Soviet-Arab friendship in various fields.

The two sides expressed their concern at the moves and efforts being carried out by U.S. imperialism to reinforce its military presence in the Arabian Gulf area and Indian Ocean and its setting up of new military bases in the Arab region, in Egypt, Somalia, Oman and other places.

They also strongly condemned the attempts of fabricated agitation, embarked upon by world imperialism led by America, concerning the events of Afghanistan and the existence of alleged dangers threatening the Arabian Gulf area.

The two sides expressed their gratification at the relations of brotherhood and cooperation existing between their two parties and countries. They stressed their persistent efforts to develop and reinforce them.

In this context an agreement for cooperation between the YSP and the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party for 1981-82 was signed.

At the end of the visit the Ba'th Party delegation expressed its thanks for the cordial and friendly reception accorded it during the visit. It extended an invitation for a leading delegation from the YSP to visit Syria. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA--Brother Abduh 'Ali Abd ar-Rahman, our ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic, this week presented a copy of his credentials as ambassador plenipotentiary of the PDRY to the Syrian Arab Republic to 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy premier and foreign minister. [Text] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Mar 81 LD/EA]

GHALI VIEWS ON ISRAELI RELATIONS, LIBYA REPORTED

NC230922 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt is prepared to resume the autonomy talks in an effective way if it detects a change or something new in the Israeli Government's stand that will enable the talks to move toward their target.

In an interview to be published in the Monday edition of the newspaper AL-AKHBAR, Ghali affirms Egypt's interest in continuing the talks until the objective of the framework for peace signed in Camp David is attained--that is, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, which would be a major step toward establishing a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the area.

Ghali notes that the talks have encountered obstacles inhibiting the progress Egypt had hoped for. This is primarily owing to Israel's interpretation of some points of the Camp David agreement in a way that is incompatible with the spirit and letter of this agreement. It is also owing to the behavior of the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied territories, a behavior that is not conducive to the building of mutual confidence or to achieving the hoped for progress in the talks.

Answering a question on the allegation of some sources that Egypt is restricting the normalization process with Israel, Ghali says that the normalization of relations process is part of the peace treaty between the Arab Republic of Egypt and Israel. Because Israel has scrupulously implemented its commitment regarding its interim withdrawal according to the timetable set for this purpose and because Israel is now making preparations for its final and complete withdrawal from the Sinai to the international border between Egypt and Palestine under the mandate, which will enable Egypt to exercise its full sovereignty over Sinai no later than 25 April 1982, Egypt, for its part, will continue to implement the provisions of the treaty and work for normal relations between the two countries.

Ghali adds: I have some remarks to which I would like to draw attention. One of these remarks is that normal relations between two states which have been enemies and at war for over 30 years cannot be achieved in a short time. If diplomatic representation is possible in a short time, the establishment of normal economic and cultural relations between the two peoples requires more time.

Ghali explains that Israel can help the Egyptian people and their legislative and executive institutions accelerate the peace process if an agreement on autonomy can be reached, or if Israel stops the deportation of the West Bank mayors and notables, or if it stops its provocative policy of building new settlements in the occupied territories, or if it responds to Egypt's request for the quick release of the detainees in the Israeli prisons and for the restoration of the status quo in Dayr As-Sultan [an ancient convent in the old city of Jerusalem, the ownership of which is a subject of dispute between Abyssinian and Coptic monks]

Referring to some current aspects of the normalization process, Dr Ghali cites the exchange of official visits by government and legislative delegations, the trade traffic across Al-'Arish and the tourism movement between the two countries. Israel has also participated in the international book fair in Cairo and will participate in the international trade fair. Youths of the two countries will also exchange visits this summer. The People's Assembly is also currently discussing the trade, cultural and civil aviation agreements preliminary to ratifying them, he adds.

Asked about his expectations with regard to the African summit conference scheduled to be held in July and the attitude of this conference toward the Libyan invasion of Chad, Dr Butrus Ghali says: On the basis of its African responsibilities, Egypt has decided to explain to the African brothers the present and future danger of letting Al-Qadhdhafi go undeterred after what he has done.

Dr Ghali adds: If the present situation continues, nothing will stop Al-Qadhdhafi's black conspiracies. I explained this clearly to the recent OAU ministerial council in Addis Ababa. I stressed to the African brothers that Libya in itself may not be a difficult matter, but that all the danger lies in the fact it is used as a cat's paw by the Soviet Union, which supplies it with arms, equipment, experts and even mercenaries to implement its plots. We, therefore, hope that our African brothers will understand these dangers, and we hope that the conference will accordingly focus its attention on this matter and take the necessary steps to implement its previous resolutions as well as the recommendations adopted by the mini-conference held in Lome.

EGYPT REQUESTS UN TO FORM SINAI EMERGENCY FORCE

NC221931 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that he has asked Egypt's chief delegate to the United Nations to contact UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and the permanent delegations to the Security Council in order to discuss the possibility of forming a UN emergency force to supervise Israel's withdrawal from Sinai. He expressed his hope that the United Nations will respond to Egypt's request and that it will shoulder its responsibilitfes in safeguarding peace.

Dr Ghali said that Egypt will resort to the formation of a multinational force only if the United Nations fails to form the emergency force or if no decision is taken in this regard.

On the other hand, the under secretary of the U.S. State Department [Michael Sterner] will arrive in Cairo on Friday for talks with officials on the various aspects of forming the force that would supervise the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

AS-SADAT, AUSTRALIA'S ANTHONY VIEW VISIT RESULTS

NC211612 Cairo in English 1512 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Isma'ilia, 21 Mar (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat received at his rest-house here today the Australian deputy premier and minister of trade, Douglas Anthony, and his accompanying delegation now on a visit to Egypt. Present at the meeting, which lasted about an hour, was deputy premier for financing and economic affairs, 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Australian deputy premier reiterated to President as-Sadat Australia's full support for his wise policy and for the Camp David accords, as well as for his efforts to achieve peace in the region. Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that the meeting reviewed the events in the Middle East area, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq, as there was clear rapprochment in viewpoints between the two sides.

Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid said that the Australian deputy premier also stressed the necessity of going ahead with bilateral cooperation and the consolidation of the Egyptian economy. He added that during the Australian delegation's visit a number of long-term contracts for supplying Egypt with meat and wheat were signed. "One of these contracts provide for supplying Egypt with one and a half million tons of wheat annually to be increased to two million tons within five years," the deputy premier for financial and economic affairs added.

He pointed out that other contracts included supplying Egypt with quantities of meat annually, implementing a number of industrial and agricultural projects such as sugar refining, oil, phosphates and packing of meat and dairy. The last venture will be implemented in collaboration with New Zealand on the Red Sea coast," he added.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that agreement was also reached on cooperation between Egypt and Australia in the field of nuclear energy for obtaining uranium from Australia as it is one of the leading countries processing this main element of nuclear energy. He added that the quantity of uranium to be imported by Egypt from Australia has not yet been determined.

The deputy premier for financing and economic affairs said that nothing prevents Egypt from obtaining its needs of uranium from Australia, as the Egyptian nuclear energy programme requires large quantities of uranium starting with eight thousand megawatts to be increased in accordance with Egypt's needs. He pointed out that Egypt has entered the nuclear club and provisions for joining this club are now at hand.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the two countries will sign a protocol in this field in the nearest possible time and that President as-Sadat blessed the economic results of the Australian deputy premier's visit. He said that the volume of trade exchanges between Egypt and Australia will reach the tune of five hundred million dollars in the new fiscal year. This will be in the form of joint investment venture and credit facilities between the Egyptian and Australian firms.

As regards supplies of foodstuffs, the deputy premier for financial and economic affairs said: "We do not borrow nowadays, but we pay in cash for our foods".

Concluding Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that talks with the Australian side dealt with projects for reclaiming arable lands through the use of subterranean waters as Australia has expertise in this field and that this aspect of cooperation will be discussed in detail with minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and new communities, Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi.

BRITAIN'S PRINCE PHILIP ARRIVES, MEETS AS-SADAT

20 Mar Arrival

NC202119 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)--The duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, the husband of the British queen, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit of several days during which he will be staying at 'Abidin Palace. Prince Philip was met on arrival at Cairo airport by Mansur Hasan, minister of state for presidential affairs, culture and information, British Ambassador in Cairo Michael Weir and the presidential aide-de-camp Col Nazim Muhammad Hilmi, who will be accompanying the duke during his stay in Egypt.

As-Sadat Luncheon, Suez Tour

NC211452 Cairo MENA in English 1445 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Ismailia, 21 Mar (AFP)--Prince Consort and Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip today lauded the prominent and leading role played by President as-Sadat with a view to bring about peace based on justice in the Middle East. This was included in the speech by the duke during the luncheon banquet held by President Anwar as-Sadat this afternoon in honour of duke of Edinburgh.

President as-Sadat in his speech praised Britain's role in supporting Arab rights.

Prince Consort Philip started his visit to Ismailia today at 10:30 a.m. by a visit to the Suez Canal authority as he reviewed with the authority chairman Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur the projects which are being implemented by Egypt to develop and deepen the canal for serving world trade, including the project of the electronic piloting of the ships crossing the canal. The British guest, accompanied by Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, toured the Suez Canal. As they witnessed the movement in the canal Prince Philip praised the role played by the Suez Canal as a vital waterway for trade between the East and the West and paid tribute to Egypt's efforts for expanding and deepening the canal to cope with modern technology.

'WHITE PAPER' DETAILS HISTORY OF PALESTINE POLICY

NC221330 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1103 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)--In tomorrow's edition the weekly magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF says that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry this week issued a "white paper" on the position which Egypt has taken throughout all the rounds of the autonomy negotiations. These negotiations lasted 1 and 1/2 years and were held in Herzliyya, Cairo, Alexandria and Washington.

The magazine says that the white paper includes 120 pages. It contains documents on the talks and on the official letters exchanged among Egypt, the United States and Israel on autonomy and on establishment of the institutions which would make arrangements for the transitional period in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip until the right to self-determination is exercised.

ROSE AL-YUSUF adds that this paper will be circulated at the United Nations. Furthermore, this paper will be sent officially to the governments of the states which have diplomatic relations with Egypt--and these are well over 120 states. This paper will also be sent to international and regional organizations.

The ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine says that the paper mentions the measures for building confidence first proposed by Egypt in October 1978, prior to the signing of the peace treaty. Consequently, Cairo specified these measures in five points in February and March 1979. The paper also includes the official documents connected with the numerous Egyptian proposals on configurations of the institutions of the autonomous rule in the West Bank and Gaza, first compiled by Egypt within a complete framework in January 1980. The magazine adds that the white paper draws a dividing and decisive line between the Egyptian stance, which the United States has been supporting to various extents, and the Israeli position.

In commenting on the paper, which has been prepared by a group of experts and specialists, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali told ROSE AL-YUSUF that the paper forwards a number of facts to world public opinion. These facts include Egypt's insistence on specific proposals since the beginning of the discussions, as well as Cairo's focusing of its attention on the main point; that is, the measures for the building of confidence on Israel's part. These facts also illustrate that Cairo did not neglect the major problems and obstacles which impinged on, and which were related to, these talks, such as the rejection and condemnation of the building of settlements and the subject of Jerusalem.

These facts contained in the paper also mention the radical divergence existing between the Egyptian and Israeli viewpoints on the principles and framework of autonomy and this continuing divergence between the two viewpoints throughout the talks. These facts also reveal the enormous number of procedural and objective [mawdu'iyah] obstacles placed by Israel in the way of the talks. The minister of state elucidated the fact that Egypt had been fully aware of the Israeli side's inclinations since the very beginning. However, Egypt insisted on holding these rounds on schedule and on the participation of Dr Mustafa Khalil and Kamal Hasan 'Ali. The purpose of Egypt's insistence was to raise the cause of the Palestinian people and of their legitimate rights within Israel at the level of the Israeli political leadership and Israeli public opinion. This was the first time Israeli public opinion heard the Palestinian people's rights being mentioned within Israel.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that, meanwhile, the method of the autonomy talks and the continuing negotiations on this method of holding these talks--without achieving positive results compatible with the concept and with the accurate reading of the Camp David documents, in the capacity of these documents as a framework and formula for work--and negotiating every phase would end the Camp David documents with continuity and efficacy. Dr Ghali pointed out that, basically, the Camp David documents do not constitute a solution. However, they are a method and a way of action.

Ghali on Paper, Policy

LD231315 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Mar 81 p 6

[Hidayat 'Abd an-Nabi report: "Butrus Ghali Calls on All Palestinians to Read White Paper No 2 on the Palestinian Issue"]

[Excerpts] The countdown has started. Only a few months remain until the Israeli elections. Observers expect the autonomy talks to be resumed a short time after the new Israeli Government assumes office. In the meantime, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has published White Paper No 2 on the Palestinian issue. This white paper contains every paper Egypt has presented during the autonomy negotiations and represents an evaluation of Egypt's firm stance. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali calls on all Palestinians to read White Paper No 2.

White Paper No 2 shows that Egypt's stance has been unremittingly firm on the Palestinian issue. The tactics or details may vary, according to the minister of state for foreign affairs, but Egypt's position never deviates from the target--the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

[Question] Are Egypt's efforts on the Palestinian issue appreciated, or are they totally rejected by the Palestinians?

Dr Butrus Ghali: The Egyptian efforts had led to a positive result. However, we cannot pass final judgement at this stage because the chapters of the story are not yet complete. I do not believe that the Palestinian rejection can be considered total: there is a silent majority which is waiting for developments.

[Question] Where is the silent majority among the Palestinians, and will it remain unable to act?

The minister of state for foreign affairs: The silent majority is waiting for the success of the Egyptian efforts. There are many indications and contacts which point to the fact that the silent majority supports a peaceful settlement and wishes a just solution to the Palestinian problems as soon as possible, confident that Egypt cannot possibly abandon the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause, whose banner it has raised for the past 40 years. Therefore, the issue is very complicated. There are numerous Palestinian currents. The basic need is for us to arrive at a starting point and then move to subsequent stages. To remain in the position in which we are now--a Palestinian-Israeli state of no peace and no war--is wrong, because that could lead to the ruination of the area. We do not accept that. We call on the Palestinians to assert their entity and to refute all the Israeli arguments and excuses.

Dr Butrus Ghali says in his statement that he hopes that the Palestinian and Arab public will eventually be convinced and will realize, on the basis of the documents and evidence, how sincere Egypt is in its stance for the sake of the Palestinian people and their cause, in comparison with what they see and hear from the other Arab circles, and will appreciate that Egypt adheres to one single stance whether during closed discussions, at international forums or during open talks.

SUDANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION LEAVES 23 MAR

NC230932 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)--The Sudanese parliamentary delegation led by Muhammad Jabbarah al-'Awadi left Cairo this morning for home at the end of a 2-week visit to Egypt.

The leader of the delegation stated that the delegation's visit to Egypt was positive and heralded good tidings, because while the visit was in progress Egypt and Sudan announced the restoration of diplomatic ties between them.

He also said that the special relations between Sudan and Egypt, and Sudan's good relations with the rest of the Arab states, qualify Sudan to work for the unity of Arab ranks in the interests of the Arab nation.

PAPER VIEWS DEVELOPMENTS IN EGYPT-SUDAN RELATIONS

NC221153 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)--The AS-SIYASI paper says that the forthcoming weeks will witness important developments in Egyptian-Sudanese relations--foremost among which will be a meeting between President Anwar as-Sadat and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri and the drawing up of a joint plan between the two countries concerning their moves in the Arab and international arenas.

In its issue today, the paper says that relations between the Sudan and Egypt will also witness the convocation of unofficial talks in some European capitals with some Arab countries and the revival of relations in various spheres between Egypt and some Arab countries as a basic and necessary step in order to confront the perils that threaten the Arab region. The paper adds that relations between the two countries will, in addition to the above, also witness the drawing up of a new strategy for negotiations with Israel which will be based on the Camp David agreements as well as the anticipated political changes in Israel in the wake of the forthcoming elections.

COMMENTARY VIEWS SUDAN RELATIONS, LIBYAN ACTIONS

NC202101 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary: "Egypt Will Support Every Arab State Against Any Imported Ideological Plan"]

[Excerpts] A firm fact that cannot be denied is that Sudan's security, safety and stability concerns Egypt--in the first place because of historical, religious and political ties; because of the fact that strategic factors are influenced by whatever affects either of the two countries; and because of the unwritten but engraved natural unity among the people of the Nile Valley. Therefore, whatever the Libyan ruler schemes against Sudan concerns Egypt in the first place.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has attempted to plot against the Egyptian people in various ways--through the so-called Libyan masses' March on Cairo to dictate unity, through pretexts, through concentrating his forces and seeking the assistance of Soviet advisers in Libyan airports and bases and through sabotage operations. All these attempts failed completely because the Egyptian masses rallied around their political leadership and rejected Al-Qadhdhafi's methods, which he financed with Libya's oil revenues.

The Libyan authorities were desperate because no measures were possible on Egypt's western border. Al-Qadhdhafi then turned to Chad in order to penetrate Sudan. This was not the first attempt, as several abortive attempts took place before.

Egypt has undertaken to join every effort to ward off the Soviet danger against any Arab state. Egypt will stand against any agent state that will allow itself to be exploited. Egypt will wholly stand with fraternal Sudan against the Libyan-Soviet plan.

PAPER SAYS MAURITANIAN COUP ATTEMPT LIBYAN PLOT

NC231012 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial today AL-AKHBAR says that Al-Qadhdhafi has denounced the armed movement that took place in Mauritania and said that he considers any aggression against Mauritania as an aggression against Libya and that he is ready to send his forces to defend Mauritania if it requests such assistance. This is an explicit admission by Al-Qadhdhafi that he was the one who engineered this movement and carried it out in implementation of a Soviet-designed plan.

The paper expresses its surprise that after the failure of this movement Mauritanian officials depicted it as a coup and accused Morocco of being behind it. But all the evidence they gave was that the soldiers who carried it our wore Moroccan military uniforms. These Mauritanian officials ignored the fact that Al-Qadhdhafi is training thousands of mercenaries for war and for such suspect movements, and that he has made military uniforms for them to suit the place where they would operate. What is more surprising is that these Mauritanian officials hastened to contact the UN Security Council, the OAU and their Arab League and accuse Morocco of involvement in this movement without having any proof. This is something that makes one wonder whether these Mauritanians were not in agreement with Al-Qadhdhafi and Algeria in carrying out this movement, which is comparable to the firing of tear gas bombs.

The paper says that Al-Qadhdhafi paid them off to approve this agreement and that his purpose was to cause hostility between Mauritania and Morocco and to rally Mauritania, the Sahara movement and Algeria against Morocco. Then at the appropriate time Al-Qadhdhafi could dispatch his forces just as he did in Chad. The paper adds: News agencies earlier reported that Al-Qadhdhafi had concentrated a number of tank carriers in Algeria preparatory to carrying out a big action against Morocco.

The paper affirms that this is part of a Soviet plan to remove the French strategy from northern as well as from the heart of Africa and to replace it with the Soviet strategy. A manifestation of this plan was the plot that took place in Chad, the abortive plot that took place against Morocco several years ago and the famous plot that took place against Tunisia. Today Al-Qadhdhafi is trying to carry out a new plot against Morocco, and this time he wants it in the form of an armed invasion on the lines of what happened in Chad. Therefore, we think that the movement which took place in Chad was just the beginning of this plan and a prelude to the big plot, and that things will not stop at this point.

The paper says that Al-Qadhdhafi is on his way to Moscow, or perhaps he is already there. The Soviet leaders have asked him to visit Moscow, as was officially announced by TASS. They did not set a date for his visit because Al-Qadhdhafi wants to keep the date secret for fear of an assassination attempt. It is known that he will sign a cooperation treaty with the Soviets on the lines of the treaties which Al-Asad and the PDRY president have signed. This treaty will give the Soviets the right to intervene militarily at any time they wish.

AL-QADHDHAFI REPORTEDLY TRAINING TERRORISTS

NC230845 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0638 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)--The weekly newspaper MAY says today that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has allocated large sums of money for the training of some Arabs and foreigners in preparation for the implementation of a terrorist plot in the Gulf area. The paper says that the training is taking place in special camps in South Yemen.

Meanwhile, the Libyan colonel's intelligence service has intensified its activities in Rome and Geneva, with the aim of using these cities as two main springboards for the killing of Libyans abroad opposed to Al-Qadhdhafi.

MAY has learned that a Libyan colonel named Salim Sa'id Salim is one of those charged with the task of directing the terrorist operations in Europe.

MAY SAYS IRAQIS TRYING TO RECRUIT EGYPTIANS

NC230832 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)--The weekly newspaper MAY reports that it has learned that agents of the Iraqi Ba'th Party and Iraqi intelligence have tried to recruit some Egyptians in Canada to travel to Iraq by luring them with the claim of abundant work opportunities there. The real aim, the paper says, is to train the Egyptians who would fall for this temptation in acts of sabotage to be carried out in Egypt. The paper says that the Egyptians have rejected all the temptations offered by the Iraqi Embassy in Montreal and by the Ba'th agents.

ENERGY MINISTER, DELEGATION LEAVE FOR PARIS 22 MAR

NC221154 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)--Egyptian Minister of Energy and Electricity Engineer Mahir Abaza left for Paris today at the head of a delegation of nuclear energy and electricity experts. During the visit, which will last several days, Abaza is expected to sign the Egyptian-French agreement on nuclear cooperation and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This agreement was initialed in Cairo on 9 March.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 284

JN231728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Communique No 284 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 23 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The result of our armed forces' activities in the operational sectors last night and today is as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Seven were killed in the Nowsud region.
B. An enemy concentration was sighted in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. It was hit by our units with artillery and mortars, killing 18 and destroying 2 vehicles and 1 excavator.
C. Our units hit with various weapons an enemy concentration near their positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region and forced it to flee, killing 29 and destroying 1 tank.
D. One field gun and one observation post were destroyed in front of our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. One of our forward units clashed with an enemy infantry force in the Mehran region and strongly hit it with various weapons, forcing it to flee while leaving behind 34 dead. One enemy observation post was also destroyed in the same region.
F. Our units hit an enemy concentration in the Shush region and forced it to retreat, killing 15 and destroying 1 vehicle carrying soldiers and 2 field guns. Our helicopters destroyed two tanks, two armored personnel carriers and two field guns in the same region and returned safely to their bases.
G. An enemy troop concentration was sighted near our units' positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region. It was hit with artillery and mortars and forced to flee, leaving behind 12 dead.
H. One observation post was destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
I. Six were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the Abadan region. Three small naval targets were destroyed and sunk at the entrance of the Al-Faw Canal.

Thus, total known enemy losses are: 121 killed, 1 infantry position, 3 tanks, 2 armored personnel carriers, 3 vehicles, 5 field guns, 1 excavator, 3 observation posts and 3 small naval targets.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Eight martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle and two mortars damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 March 1981

PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSAYN TOURS NORTHERN IRAQ

JN221421 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1208 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA)--President Saddam Husayn has announced that the People's Army now includes within its ranks 35,000 fighters from the sons of our Kurdish people who are fighting alongside their Arab brothers in defense of the national soil against the charlatan Khomeyni and his treasonous clique. The president made this announcement yesterday when addressing the masses of Zakhu District in northern Iraq, where he spent Nowruz [Kurdish new year] among the sons of our Kurdish people.

The president said: Iraqi Kurds prove once again, as they have proved in the past, that they are Iraqis first and that they are ready to defend Iraq with their blood despite their different ethnic nationality [qawmiyah]. They proved that national affiliation does not conflict with affiliation to the Iraqi homeland, but strengthens it.

The president stressed that Iraqi Kurds have shown to the whole world that they are the sons of Kurdistan and of great Iraq and that they are true grandsons of the great Salah ad-Din al-Ayyubi who liberated Palestine [from the crusaders in the Middle East]. The president called on the sons of Iraq to hold their heads high in light of the successive victories scored by great Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn also visited one of the military units in the area to greet its heroic fighters, who renewed their pledge to the leadership of the party and the revolution to achieve more victories against the Persian enemy until they recognize our full rights to our territory and waters.

The president began his tour 3 days ago by visiting the villages and rural areas of the provinces of Salah ad-Din, At-Ta'mim, Nineveh and Dahuk and sharing in the daily life of the peasants.

The president visited the Al-'Abbasi District of At'Ta'mim Province where he got acquainted with the citizens' needs. Addressing the multitudes that gathered to greet him, the president said: You are now like your forefathers. You are fighting and building. You also have their faith and justice.

President Saddam Husayn also visited Mar Matta monastery in Nineveh Province where he got acquainted with work to repair the monastery, build a new wing in it and repair the outside wall.

Addressing citizens in the 'Ayn Sifni District, the president said: We object to being considered small. The Iraqis are great people and Iraq is a great country. The Iraqis repect those who respect them. They do not respect those who do not respect them, no matter how big or small they are.

Last week the president made a similar tour to the villages and countryside of southern Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH CITED ON IRAQI MILITARY SUCCESSES

21 Mar Report

JN210950 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA)--A press team in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] operational sector has told the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH that it has witnessed from a short distance Iranian tanks and hardware burning and that scores of corpses were scattered on the battlefield in the wake of the battle that raged during the past 2 days.

A report published by the paper said that the Iraqi forces checked an attack launched by a big enemy force supported by armored cars and vehicles. The report added that the Iraqi forces carried out a counteroffensive as a result of which the Iranian force was destroyed. The team cites a military official as saying that the enemy forces sustained grave losses in this battle. The official added that a group of Iraqi commandos launched a strong attack on an enemy support force on the eastern bank of the Karkheh River. The enemy used this force to cover its withdrawal. He said that the commandos achieved great success in confronting the enemy support force. He said the Iraqi soldiers enjoy high morale and are capable of destroying any enemy attempt.

The Iraqi communiques of the past 3 days had alluded to a fierce battle in the Khafajiyah area. These communiques said that the Iraqi forces had killed 223 Iranians and destroyed 7 tanks, 8 armored personnel carriers, 8 guns and 1 rocket launcher. The Khafajiyah area was the scene of a fierce 4-day battle on 5 January. The battle resulted in the destruction and break up of an Iranian armored division.

24 Mar Report

JN240934 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Mar (INA)--An Iraqi military source has said that the Persian enemy attempts to approach the Iraqi frontline units are aimed at reviving the collapsed morale engulfing the ranks of its soldiers.

In a statement to the AL-JUMHURIYAH team in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area, the source said that all these attempts have failed and are only imposing new grave losses on Iran. He said that the Persian enemy soldiers are fleeing the frontlines gripped with panic, demonstrating that they have been pushed into battle without conviction.

Citing another team the paper says that fire is still ablaze in Abadan and that Iraqi artillery continues to pound and to destroy enemy targets and supply routes from Khorowabad. The paper points out that Iraqi patrols in the area have launched several successful night raids on enemy positions.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH PLO'S QADDUMI IN TUNIS

JN241030 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Tunis, 24 Mar (INA)--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The latest developments in the Arab-Zionist conflict and the stands of Europe and the new U.S. administration on this conflict were discussed.

RAMADAN MEETS VISITING TURKISH ENERGY MINISTER

JN231927 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here this evening with Servulent Bingol, Turkish minister of energy and natural resources. During the meeting the Iraqi official stressed the importance of providing amenable circumstances to make use of technical potentials in the two countries and strengthening these potentials to expand cooperation in various fields to serve joint interests.

The Turkish minister of energy and natural resources expressed hope that his visit to Iraq will promote cooperative relations between the two friendly countries, asserting his country's sincere wish to expand cooperation in various fields.

The Turkish minister arrived here earlier today on an official visit of several days.

KHOMEYNI'S SON SEEN AS EMERGING 'THIRD FORCE'

JN212114 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The piracy scandal perpetrated by Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court, leader of the Republican Party and an ambitious ayatollah, has raised new questions on the future of struggle for political authority in Iran. Khomeyni, who is playing with the contradictions between the fighting wings and blocs, will try to exploit the scandal to declaw Beheshti, Raja'i and Rafsanjani. However, this measure will not be to the benefit of Bani-Sadr nor will it restore the required balance between Bani-Sadr's wing and that of the Republican Party. It will be in the interest of the growing third force that is represented by Khomeyni's son. This force has actually begun to get ready to occupy its positions gradually in the executive, legislative and judicial posts at the expense of the two fighting blocs.

The questions which observers try to answer regarding the recent developments on the political arena of struggle in Iran are: How long will the concerned parties respect Khomeyni's orders? How long will they abide by his instructions? How long will they refrain from harming his disciplinary measures? Will the alternative third force or any of the clashing forces inside Tehran and Qom authority be able to stand the heavy price Iran will pay as a result of its intransigence, arrogance and continuous refusal to recognize the rights of Iraq and the Arab nation?

We know that charlatan Khomeyni and his rotten clique will knock at all doors and use all methods to prolong the war and obstruct all efforts for peace for the sole reason that ending war means their end, both through the liquidation that will take place among themselves and the defeated army's exercise of its rights toward the reestablishment of its position after being pushed into a lost war with Iraq.

IRAN'S COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE ATTACKED

GF221400 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Poor Iranian people and patriotic, brave sons of the Iranian Armed Forces: The disastrous propaganda organs and the disgraceful establishments of the Tehran rulers have resorted to a new intrigue. The Iranian representatives of the imperialists and the exploitationists, who have not been satisfied with the disaster, horror and [word indistinct] in every corner of Iran and with the (?defeat) that the Iranian Armed Forces have suffered in the battlefronts, have sworn that they will further destroy Iran and increase the streams of blood that have been shed by innocent youths.

Not being able to achieve any victory in the fratricidal war they declared against the brave Iraqi nation and state, the fascist and chauvinist Tehran rulers have now resorted to a new, devilish and satanic intrigue in order to send Iranian youths to the battlefront. They intend to rearm the youths who completed their national service during the shah's era and dispatch them to the battlefront. They intend to have matters related to general mobilization totally under their control and to do away with drawing lots. Every day the Tehran rulers and their disastrous propaganda organs and agents talk about using the Iranian nation's power against Iraq.

The impostor and illiterate mice of Qom are drafting the brave sons of the people into military service with a view to sending them to the battlefront against the Iraqi Armed Forces as part of what they call the people's army. Meanwhile, the propaganda organs of the imperialist and exploitationist circles are trying to intensify the war. Khomeyni and his criminal band of men believe that by sending the brave sons of the people to the battlefront against [what they call the] Iraqi kaffirs they will be able to maintain their bloody administration from destruction. However, Khomeyni knows well that no one but the reactionaries believe in what he says.

Brave Iranians, Khomeyni and the students of his bloody and dangerous school have vested their hopes in the destruction of Iran. Removing this dark cloud over the country is the historic and national duty of all Iranians. Turn the streams of liberation into running rivers. Crush the Khomeyni regime with unwavering armed revolts. It is your duty to avenge the blood of your brave sons by forcing the satanic and parasitic mullahs to account for their deeds in the people's tribunals. The disaster is great and, therefore, it is necessary to (?put up a great resistance) and achieve glorious victories. Launch your resistance struggles one after another in order that Khomeyni and elements as treacherous as he drown in this stormy sea. This will prevent Iran's destruction and the [words indistinct] of Iran's territorial integrity.

KURDISH PARTY PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR REGIME

JN240940 Baghdad ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] The Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] has asserted that the 11 March declaration and the Kurdistan autonomous region are not the only gains for the region; they represent only part of the tremendous gains which have been scored for the Iraqi people, both Arabs and Kurds, as a result of the great 17 July revolution.

In a statement issued yesterday on the occasion of the glorious March anniversary, the DPK Political Bureau said that the 17 July revolution has turned this day into a holiday celebrated by all the Iraqi Arabs and Kurds as well as by other minorities, in view of the revolution's faith in the profound fraternal and historical ties that bind the Iraqi people and in view of the great meaning of freedom symbolized by the great Nowruz day.

The statement greeted the Al-Qadisiyah soldiers who are dealing blows to the racist Persian to make him succumb to our legitimate demands for our waters and land and cease intervening in our domestic affairs.

The Political Bureau pointed out the DPK's participation in the sacred and honorable battle and its role in performing its duty in serving the homeland. The bureau stressed its readiness to continue to offer sacrifices until definite victory is scored over the remnants of the Persian aggressors.

Touching on the attempts by the enemies of our country to impede the implementation of the provisions of the 11 March declaration and the establishment of the bases of autonomous institutions, the statement explained that the DPK has played its natural role in thwarting these attempts and has continued the development process hand in hand with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the progressive, national and nationalist forces which believe in the course of the 17 July revolution.

The statement asserted that President Saddam Husayn's wise and militant leadership and stubborn stand against the imperialist designs and reactionary plots has defeated the enemies and thwarted all their attempts to obstruct the implementation of the provisions of the 11 March declaration and the realization of autonomy.

The statement affirmed that the new Iranian butcher, charlatan Khomeyni, has robbed the fruit of the Iranian peoples' struggle and mighty revolution against the shah's regime and the Pahlavi rule. Khomeyni's bloodthirsty elements have spread obstruction and terror and murdered the people mercilessly and without leniency. This has brought economic and cultural destruction to all of Iran.

The statement pointed out that the regime of charlatan Khomeyni has used all the energies and potentials which were bequeathed by the defunct shah in all vicious battles against our struggler Iraq. Charlatan Khomeyni believed that he could export the misery and distress that are engulfing Iran to Iraq and the other countries in the area.

The statement urged the Iranian peoples to lie in wait for this ignorant clique and to bear arms and revolt against it and to demand their legitimate rights in a free and dignified life.

JORDAN TIMES REPORTS CROWN PRINCE HASAN UK SPEECH

LD240750 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Mar 81 p 1

[Special dispatch: "Crown Prince in Commons: 'Jordan Option' Is No Option"]

[Text] London, March 23--His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan this evening cautioned some of Britain's top decision-makers that the so-called "Jordanian option" for resolving the Palestinian question "is no option at all."

The crown prince was addressing the European Atlantic Group. Present in the House of Commons chambers for the royal speech were some 200 members of Parliament from the houses, business and political leaders and members of the deiplomatic corps.

"We have no illusions about the so-called 'Jordanian option,'" Crown Prince Hasan said. "To us, bypassing the Palestinians and the refusal of Israel to deal with the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, is no option at all. It appears that Israel's objective is to transform neighboring countries into destabilized political entities which make easy targets for aggression."

The crown prince highlighted the urgency of resolving the Middle East crisis and encouraged European states to take an active role in the quest for peace.

"The issues of security and peace with justice, so often misunderstood as being in ironic contradiction with each other, have bedevilled the Middle East since the British mandate over Palestine of 1922. In 1981 it is imperative that progress be achieved toward a comprehensive, lasting peace," Crown Prince Hasan said.

He reminded his listeners that "in the forefront of factors that contribute to the instability of the region lie the continued occupation of Arab lands by Israel and its denial of the right of self-determination to the Palestinians.

"This denial is the more ironic since that right was an inseparable part of Zionist philosophy. Early Zionists insisted on and succeeded in implementing the right of self-determination in establishing a 'national home' for Jews in Palestine. Yet Israel continues today to deny Palestinians the right to return to their homeland and to self-determination."

In support of the European peace initiative, launched by the European Economic Community at its Venice summit last year, Crown Prince Hasan cautioned that "inaction is often no more than an excuse for political immobility. European states outside the immediate conflict have the political interest and insight to participate in negotiations for, and holding of, a conference or an overall settlement of the dispute. The existing Arab-Israeli conflict should be shut off from the wider Middle East realpolitik considerations. The climate for an overall international settlement is not wholly adverse."

The crown prince elaborated that "it is our belief that the long historical association between Europe and the Arab people can be viewed in a positive light even though since the turn of the century, the origins of European interests were often in conflict with the politically dynamic aspiration of the Arab people. The depth and variety of the dimensions of Euro-Arab relations can contribute to building a solid base for cooperation in the various fields of human activity--not only political and economic ties, but also in cultural relations which are of value to the civilized world."

After detailing possible areas of cooperation, he went on: "While maintaining prosperity for all is a commendable task, it is wise to keep in mind that man does not live by oil alone, I would like to point out that the words 'oil' and 'Arab' are not synonymous and an attempt at equating the two is misleading and unfair."

Jordan, like many states, imports oil, he noted. Last year the cost of these imports exceeded the value of Jordan's total exports, he said.

He recalled that "The recent Arab and Islamic summits' declarations have reaffirmed our commitment to the full restoration of the Palestinians' rights to their national soil, including Arab Jerusalem.

The crown prince concluded with a quotation from Theodore Roosevelt: "...People, proud and high-spirited, would face all the disasters of war rather than purchase that base prosperity which is bought at the price of national honour."

Then Crown Prince Hasan warned: "It is clear that the disaster awaits us, unless realpolitik addresses the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of the region."

After his half-hour speech, which he began at 6 P.M. London time, he answered questions for about an hour. The earl of Bessborough, vice-president of the European Atlantic Group, described the crown prince's speech as one of the most important developments in the Euro-Arab dialogue.

Afterward, Crown Prince Hasan was the guest of honour at a private dinner at London's Waldorf Hotel in the company of British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, Jordan's ambassador to the United Kingdom and many dignitaries.

SUDAN-EGYPT TIES SEEN AS 'EXPEDIENT MINIALLIANCE'

JN240737 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Mar 81 p 4

[Editorial: "Divisive Threat"]

[Text] Sudan's decision to reestablish full diplomatic relations with Egypt is the latest example of the dangerous tendency towards fractionalism that hovers over the Arab world. Whether we are falling prey to well orchestrated foreign conspiracies or simply achieving an ingrained potential for fragmentation, the fact remains that the Arab world is passing through one of its most difficult periods since the decolonisation era of the first half of this century. There are so many bilateral quarrels among Arab states today that we hardly need the overlay of East-West rivalries to further polarise the Arab states into two or more camps. Several Arab states have already used the Iran-Iraq war to aggravate inter-Arab disputes, while it now appears that the fear of great power penetration into north and central Africa has prompted Sudan to seek comfort in a closer alliance with Egypt. While it is natural for Arab states to combine their resources to thwart common external threats, it is counter-productive for small regional sub-groupings to promote their own interests at the expense of the greater challenge that has faced the Arab nation since the creation of Israel in 1948. In the end, the tendency to close in on oneself in expedient mini-alliances based on artificial geographic criteria will weaken the ability of the Arabs as a whole to deal with the national challenge that affects us all. The Egyptian move towards a separate peace with Israel demonstrated the divisive effects of unilateral initiatives. Sudan's move this week reminds us again that only by putting our own Arab house in order can we hope to deal coherently with the rest of the world.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL STATEMENT

Butrus Comment

NC211654 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus received Louis Delamare, the French ambassador to Lebanon. Following the meeting the French ambassador said: We reviewed the discussions that took place at the UN Security Council which concluded with a statement issued by the council. These discussions were difficult, as you know, and of course France played a role in the issuance of the statement and in adopting a stand in support of Lebanon.

Commenting on the UN Security Council statement on the recent events in southern Lebanon, minister Butrus affirmed that the discussions that took place at the Security Council before the council's statement was issued had shown the discrepancies in the viewpoints of the Security Council members, especially between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

Summing up Lebanon's viewpoint Foreign Minister Butrus made the following statement:

[Begin recording] You have heard several comments regarding the recent statement issued by the UN Security Council chairman, and you will inevitably hear more. Perhaps it will be difficult for these comments to be in agreement with each other. This is because the topic has many facets and angles and because each state, or each party, or each politician, is naturally inclined to comment on this subject from a certain point of view.

Lebanon's comment on the Security Council chairman's statement is as follows: We comment on this statement from the angle of the destiny of southern Lebanon, from the angle of its safety and from the angle of the need to put an end to its suffering.

Having these angles in mind I have the following comment to make on the Security Council chairman's statement. First, I would like to refer to the difficulties leading up to the issuance of this statement, a statement that on the surface seemed natural in view of the events that have occurred. Nevertheless, matters became complicated and the atmosphere became tense during the consultations among the Security Council members. The Security Council and its chairman almost failed to issue a resolution acceptable to everyone. If this indicates anything, it indicates the extreme tension that exists between the two superpowers, which also reflects on all international relations and all world crises, especially on the work of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly. I am afraid that there will be no early relaxation and that the tension will continue, resulting in repercussions that will take some time to disappear before we see a return to normality.

Second, the states participaing in the UN forces, some European countries and the UN Secretariat General have all played a prominent role in bridging the gap in the various viewpoints and in issuing the statement. We thank them for their efforts.

Third, after the discussions became protracted everyone saw the need to go back to UN Security Council Resolution 425, which was issued in 1978 following Lebanon's complaint against Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon. Everyone agreed that Resolution 425 is a good and firm basis for tackling the issue of southern Lebanon. We have repeatedly announced that the right way to resolve the issue of southern Lebanon is to separate it from the bigger issue [the Palestinian issue]. This can be done by the scrupulous implementation of all the provisions and clauses of Resolution 425.

The Israeli presence, the Israeli aggression, the activity of the so-called de facto force [Haddad's rightist militia] and any other activity in the south, including any infiltration [by Palestinians and leftists] through the UN forces' lines, must be stopped if we really want the issue of the south to be resolved correctly and realistically, and if we want to ease the suffering of the inhabitants of the south and reach a solution, even a temporary one, to this national tragedy.

This is my comment on the Security Council chairman's statement. I must add that we have noticed with great regret that the issue of the south--which in itself is a tragedy that must not become a subject of bargaining or a tug-of-war among the great powers--was taken by more than one party as a card to exert pressure. We also put on record that, on the whole, the U.S. stand toward this issue was intransigent despite the fact that UN forces were the victims of aggression. [end recording]

Al-Wazzan Comments

NC211730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Answering a question on Lebanon's stand toward the Security Council statement, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said Lebanon's stand is one of patience and perseverance to follow up every right and every measure useful to Lebanon. We are now waiting to learn all reactions and stands. Undoubtedly, such a follow-up is useful, which is what the Lebanese permanent representative to the United Nations is doing.

BUTRUS SENDS MESSAGE TO ARAB, ISLAMIC GROUPS

NC240826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] In implementation of the resolutions adopted by the recent Islamic Conference summit in At-Ta'if, Lebanon has asked Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to hold contacts with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the PLO preparatory to a meeting of their delegates to agree on a comprehensive strategy that will define each other's role in the conflict with Israel.

The request is in a written message that Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus handed to Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Kisrawan Labaki, who left for Tunis last week to take part in the ordinary session of the Arab League which started yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry has also sent a letter to Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti informing him of Lebanon's action in implementation of the Islamic summit.

It has been reported that Kisrawan Labaki, Foreign Ministry secretary general and head of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab League Council meetings, has handed Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi the message from Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus dealing with the situation in Lebanon and affirming the need to implement the At-Ta'if summit resolutions for drawing up a joint Arab strategy.

HADDAD COMMENTS ON ARMY DEPLOYMENT IN SOUTH

NC241002 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Undated statement by free Lebanon commander Major Haddad--read by announcer]

[Text] First, I would like to ask [Syrian President] Hafiz al-Asad and those who claim to be responsible officials in occupied Lebanon what they mean by the south and the dispatch of the army to it. Does the south extend from Nahr al-Awwali to the border with Israel, or is it limited to the area of free Lebanon? Will this army be deployed from Nahr al-Awwali to the border with Israel, including the Jazzin District? Will it prevent the presence of alien armed men, including terrorists, Syrians and the like, or is it being dispatched only to fight Sa'd Haddad and his forces so the terrorists can expand their state and enjoy greater freedom of action and enable the Syrians to have greater freedom of action to attach the Jabal Lubnan and end all Lebanese resistance in it, and then to declare Lebanon an inseparable part of greater Syria?

If the army is to be deployed according to the first idea--that is, from Nahr al-Awwali to the border--we support this deployment and will even reinforce it. But we ask more than that--that the army safeguard its way from B'abda to the south so that its safety will not be jeopardized by the terrorists in the future.

But if the purpose is to dispatch the army to the territory of free Lebanon only, this would be a trick in which Hafiz al-Asad and his lackeys are engaging in order to cause strife among the Lebanese. Our resistance to this is a collective Lebanese demand. I would not be surprised if most of the members of the Lebanese Army joined the free Lebanon army because they are Lebanese and do not want to accomplish the aims of the Syrians and the terrorists. In this case, I challenge Hafiz al-Asad to send his army to fight us and to enter our area, or otherwise let him stop his cheap attempts.

Second, I say to Fu'ad Lahhud [not further identified] to pay the price for the arms he received from Israel in 1958 and for which he has not yet paid.

As for Joseph Skaf [Lebanese defense minister], I advise him to try to reduce the impact of the economic and security blockade on his native city of Zahlah, because it is not the free Lebanon army that is beseiging the city, but the free Lebanon army that is resisting those who brought the calamities and disaster to it.

As for Amir Faysal Arslan [the son of former Lebanese Druze Minister Majid Arslan], I ask him not to pin much hope on the legitimate state authorities to safeguard the rights of his supporters in 'Alayh, because if these authorities were able, they would have ensured sovereignty from B'abda to the tomb of the mother of President Sarkis in Ash-Shabaniyah via 'Alayh. I advise you, amir, to depend on yourself.

ARMED MEN IN CAR FIRE AT U.S. EMBASSY 22 MAR

NC221227 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] At 0315 today a Mercedes car carrying armed men passed opposite the U.S. Embassy. The armed men fired at the embassy building. Policemen returned the fire, slightly hitting the car but could not prevent the gunmen's escape.

EXTRADITION OF PAKISTANI HIJACKERS REFUSED

NC231158 Paris AFP in English 1148 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus, 23 Mar (AFP)--Syria has refused to extradite the three Pakistani hijackers who surrendered here on March 14 after holding the passengers and crew of a Pakistani International Airlines Boeing hostage for 13 days, an official Syrian source indicated today. The reason for the refusal is that there is no extradition treaty between Pakistan and Syria, the source said.

The three hijackers, members of the Al-Zulfiqar opposition group, will be allowed to stay in Syria provisionally until they can obtain political asylum in a country of their choosing.

STATEMENT ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION CONDEMNS ISRAEL

JN210908 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] On the occasion of the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination, the Foreign Ministry has issued a statement which says: The Syrian Arab Republic joins the United Nations and the world's peoples in celebrating the 21 March anniversary of the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination while being more determined to support all the efforts that have as their purpose combating all racist, Zionist ideologies and practices in all their forms and boycotting, isolating and toppling regimes based on them, particularly the two racist, expansionist and colonialist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine.

It goes without saying that the Syrian Arab Republic has cooperated with the United Nations in highlighting the blatant violations of the racist and Zionist regimes against human rights,in drawing attention to the danger the continued practices of these regimes will have to world peace and security and in calling for the elimination of racism and Zionism and toppling the regimes that are based on them.

The statement adds: The United Nations has clearly and deeply sensed the evils and crimes of Zionism and its practices and the threats it poses to world peace and security. That's why it issued its historic resolution in 1975, which placed Zionism within its true framework as a racist ideology and as one of the forms of racial discrimination.

Based on these facts, the United Nations adopted several resolutions which condemned the evil alliance between the two racist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine. The United Nations also condemned the Zionist entity's practices in the occupied Arab territories, the latest being that which the UN General Assembly adopted in its 35th session, openly rejecting all measures that the Zionist entity had carried out to change the characteristics of the occupied territories prior to their annexation. The international community had also strongly rejected Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem and proclaim it as its capital. The General Assembly had asked Israel to cancel these measures and remove the settlements it had established. Israel, undoubtedly, would not have been capable of defying the international community's will and rejecting UN resolutions had it not been for the support the Camp David parties are providing it. This support strengthens Israel's stands and its aggressive colonialist policies and also contributes to strengthening racism and Zionism and their practices and regimes.

The statement says: While highly appreciating the United Nations' relentless efforts to entrench human rights and the individual's basic rights and freedoms and its fight against racist regimes, the Syrian Arab Republic cannot but strongly condemn the consistent support provided by imperialist and colonialist forces to racist and Zionist regimes in the military, economic and scientific fields. This has encouraged these regimes to flout international rights and resolutions and to escalate their aggressive trends, which greatly threaten world peace and security.

On this occasion the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to draw the United Nation's attention to the increasing dangers that result from the expansion of the existing cooperation between the two racist, expansionist and colonialist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine. This cooperation is evident in several fields, particularly in the military and nuclear fields. The Syrian Arab Republic also wishes to draw the United Nations' attention to the threat that this cooperation is posing to the struggle of Arab and African liberation movements, to the struggle against racist and Zionist regimes and to world peace and security.

The Syrian Arab Republic avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate its firm stand in support of the liberation movements in South Africa in their struggle for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, for toppling racist regimes and for their struggle to achieve self-determination and sovereignty. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses the need for UN members to respect their commitments in accordance with the international charter, agreements and resolutions to enable the international community to eliminate racism, Zionism and all regimes based on them and to assist it to protect peace, security, human rights and the individual's basic rights and freedoms throughout the world.

'SOURCE' DENIES SYRIAN COMPLICITY IN MURDER IN FRG

JN211440 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus, 21 Mar (SANA)--In reply to a question by journalists in Damascus today, a responsible Syrian information source declared: We are not concerned with what befalls this or that person in the Muslim Brotherhood organization gang. However, in order to make things clear, we stress that Syria has no connection with what happened to the wife of 'Isam al-'Attar. Our opinion is that this incident is part of the disputes among their remnants. We believe that with this incident some of them are trying to intimidate and terrorize Al-'Attar, but not to kill him.

KING HUSAYN'S AL-KARAMAH DAY SPEECH IMPUGNED

JN212000 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Amman--In a lengthy speech he delivered today, which lasted for more than 1 and 1/2 hours, King Husayn responded to the reports on his frequent meetings with the Israeli officials. The king responded with a campaign of feverish abuses against the Syrian Arab Republic and the Syrian leadership, which has neither agreed to his contacts with the Israelis nor remained silent but has considered these contacts to be part of His Majesty King Husayn's continued plotting against the Palestinian cause and the Arab people.

King Husayn talked at length about the 1967 Israeli aggression, repeating the Isreali story of this war and outlining in details the Israeli point of view regarding this war. The king then talked about the mad war which Saddam Husayn has waged against the Muslim Iranian people. The king described this war as one which is being launched against the Magian Iranians. The king added that the Iranian people are not Muslims but Magians who worship fire.

His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, the grandson of 'Abdallah, then talked about the October liberation war. He blamed Syria for waging this liberation war and said that the martyrs whom Syria has offered had not participated in the liberation of the Arab land. The king added that the royal Jordanian forces, which he intended to send to Syria, had liberated the Arab land; his majesty the king did not explain how that happened.

King Husayn complained that he was surprised by the October war and that no one had consulted him about it. The king said that he would have acted if he had been consulted in this regard. The king, however, did not say how he would have acted, although observers in the Jordanian capital city stress that if the king had been notified of the war in advance he would have discussed it and considered the stands on this war in the same manner as he discusses matters with his Iraeli friends like Moshe Dayan, Shim'on Peres, Aba Ebban, Yigal Allon and others.

King Husayn stressed that Syria had not listened to his military advice in the October liberation war. He said that Syria could have avoided this war if it had listened to his advice, exactly as he did and remained out of the war upon the advice of his friend Anwar as-Sadat. In spite of this, the king was able to brag, in front of the microphones, that he had participated in winning the victories of the October liberation war.

Concluding his royal speech, His Majesty King Husayn talked about his great faith in the liberation of Jerusalem and in the Arab nation, without referring to his deliberations regarding these two points and what he had told Moshe Dayan, Shim'on Peres, Aba Ebban and Yigal Allon about Jerusalem and the Arabs.

King Husayn closed his speech by instigating the Syrian Arab people against each other because democracy, in the opinion of his majesty the king, cannot be achieved except by meeting the Isreali officials. [sentence as heard]

On the other hand political observers in the Jordqnian capital city of Amman stress that His Majesty King Husayn is not to be blamed for all he said because his Israeli friends had embarrassed him by disclosing the news of his meetings with them. Observers also say that his majesty the king was forced, before Jordanian public opinion in particular and the Arab public opinion in general, to say anything in an attempt to divert attention from his contacts with the Israelis and recent increasing reports on these contacts, even if he had to quote the dead or the Irsaelis themselves. So those who do not believe the king let them ask the dead or the Israelis, for that is what his majesty the king desires.

PERES MEETINGS WITH ARAB LEADERS 'TREASONOUS'

JN201435 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] It now seems certain that the treasonous process did not begin with Egyptian ruler As-Sadat and that it will not end with him. It also seems that new As-Sadats have secretly and openly joined the treasonous process, both before and after As-Sadat.

Even though the Zionist enemy has kept silent for several years about the secret meetings between several of its leaders and King Husayn and others, that enemy now announces such meetings as soon as they occur. Hence, it was possible for Arab citizens last night to listen to news of a meeting between Shim'on Peres and one of King Husayn's brothers in London and of a meeting between the same Zionist and King Hassan II in Morocco for several hours yesterday [as heard]. This discussed the so-called Jordanian option, which means dividing the occupied West Bank between Israel and the ruling regime in Amman.

The reports of these meetings, which the Zionist enemy made public yesterday, are not only serious, but reveal anew that those who support As-Sadat, Israel and Washington are not only the regime in the Sultanate of Oman, the king's regime in Amman and Saddam Husayn's regime in Baghdad. The chain stretches to include all the U.S.-Zionist reserves of the agents of Washington and Israel. These agents are now intensifying their moves in the Arab arena to create a highly serious counterrevolution, not only against the Arab and Palestinian cause, but also against the cause of the pan-Arab existence of the Arab nation.

One of the first things that the Arab citizen notes is that news of these recent meetings with Shim'on Peres, leader of the Zionist Labor Party, coincides with the conspiratorial, criminal escalation of King Husayn's regime against the steadfastness of Arab Syria and its people. It also coincides with the declaration of Ja'far Numayri's regime in Sudan that it is willing to grant the United States military bases in Sudan. The news also coincides with the aggressive preparations of the ruling regimes in Cairo and Khartoum against fraternal Libya. All this occurs at a time when the Arab Gulf region is still witnessing the final acts of the U.S. war which Saddam Husayn's regime is waging against the Islamic revolution in Iran, while U.S. military bases and forces of the Egyptian regime are deployed in the Sultanate of Oman to tighten U.S. control over the Arab homeland.

Arab Syria, which is performing its pan-Arab duty in confronting this conspiracy and all its instruments, believes that our Arab masses will not be reconciled with the treasonous regimes and will not allow the conspirators to carry out their conspiracy. These masses will completely forbid the appearance of new As-Sadats.

NUMAYRI CRITICIZED FOR JOINING 'AS-SADAT'S MARCH'

Damascus Commentary

JN231442 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The dangerous characteristics of U.S. strategy have been defined. As a result some people in the Arab homeland gave dispelled their illusions that the United States is concerned over peace, be this a regional or a more comprehensive international peace.

Perhaps the prologues that have begun to appear in the Arab arena and neighboring regions clearly affirm the broad lines characterizing the U.S. trend; namely, to strike at the bases of the Arab moves which are hostile to the policy of aggression and occupation. These broad lines can be seen in the rush of some Arab regimes toward the United States and its scheme, whose purpose is to entrench Camp David and then proceed to implement the dangerous stage and secret articles of these accords, which were signed by the leader of the renegades in Egypt and awaited by the king's regime in Jordan.

When Ja'far Numayri of Sudan declares his suspect role in the destruction of the Arab resolutions and is certain that others are about to join As-Sadat's march, it remains for the Arab nation, in its turn, to define a stand on the series of treasons which have begun to be openly declared.

The Arab League Council convening in Tunis today is held responsible for defending the decisions which behooved the Arabs to isolate As-Sadat and, consequently, for imposing the procedures adopted against the traitorous regime in Egypt or those who openly proceeded to join the U.S. plot in defense of the renegades in Egypt and, consequently, the aggressive Zionist entity.

If Numayri's betrayal of Arab resolutions has become a reality of his treasonous policy, then it is necessary to heed what is even greater than scandal and treason; namely, the boasting by the Zionist enemy's leaders of their meetings with King Husayn's brother and others.

The United States, which prepared for all these moves, is seeking before anything else to make the Arab individual desperate where his future or the fate of his issue of struggle are concerned, particularly at a time when the betrayal of Arab struggle has manifested itself most clearly through the symbols of power in more than one state and one Egypt.

Anti-Egypt Radio Commentary

JN221128 Damascus Voice of Arab Egypt in Arabic 1947 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] At last Numayri has unashamedly returned to the sides of his friend Anwar as-Sadat. As everyone knows Numayri prepared for his return to the lap of As-Sadat by launching several initiatives. He offered new and clear credentials to the United States in which he called on it to enter Sudan in broad daylight. Naturally the United States will not come to Sudan empty-handed. It will enter Sudan heavily armed with various weapons and desructive equipment to terroize the Arabs in Sudan and to become the tool of terrorism against the liberation movements in the entire area. Numayri has offered new credentials to President as-Sadat through the campaign of persecution and arrests he has been waging against the Arab liberation forces in Sudan which are staunchly confronting the issue of Zionist-As-Sadat dealings. Numayri offered new credentials to the Zionist movement when he retracted his former declarations refusing to deal with Israel under any conditions. He asked the Zionist movement to accept his apologies and, like Tawfiq al-Hakim, he was unconscious when he opposed the Zionist infiltration in the Arab homeland.

Brothers, this is how the United States, Israel and the As-Sadat government decided to forgive Numayri and accept his invitation for them to enter Arab Sudan, deface its sanctities, sully its pure soil, transform its territory into bases for imperialist-Zionist aggression against the Arabs and the Africans and allow U.S.-Zionist monopolies to enter Sudan to suck the blood of our heroic Arab people in Sudan.

All this proves to us that the Zionist movement and U.S. imperialism have used and will continue to use the As-Sadat regime as a cat's paw to infiltrate the entire Arab homeland. If the circle of the nation's enemies has been expanded with the entrance of Sudan, then the circle of Arab resistance, Arab confrontation and Arab self-sacrifice will expand too because of the direct imperialist-Zionist challenge to the heroic Arabs in Sudan.

Oh brothers who are living in the Nile Valley, the battle is one and the enemy is a single enemy. Let the efforts of challenge also be united efforts from the mouth of the Nile to the south of Sudan. This is the Arab battle, the battle that will defend our existence. The battle that will expel the aggressors once and for all from the entire Arab homeland.

Oh brother Arabs in Sudan, we welcome you to the common battle that we shall wage with the Arabs in Egypt and with all the Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf.

U.S. DECISION ON 'RELIEF MEASURES' EXPECTED

TA231104 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Mar 81 p 3

[By Jerusalem economics affairs correspondent Gid'on 'Eshet]

[Text] Israel has officially asked the United States for a series of relief measures in the defense and economic aid it will receive next year. This was reported by the director general of the Finance Ministry, Professor 'Ezra Sadan, who returned at the end of last week from the United States.

It was made clear to the United States that Isreal is not interested in again spreading out its debts to the United States over a number of years because of, among other things, the fear that this would create the impression that Israel's economic predicament is graver than it really is. This, in turn, might harm Israel's ability to raise funds abroad.

The kinds of relief measures Israel is interested in have not been disclosed.

Yesterday, Professor Sadan met Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and reported to him about the details of the talks he had held in the United States. It emerged during the conversation that Israel is expecting a U.S. decision on this issue within a couple of weeks.

Israel's ambassador to the United States, Efrayim 'Evron, and his aides are continuing to maintain contacts with the United States on these issues. If it transpires that there is objection in Washington to compliance with Israel's relief requests, it is not inconceivable that one of the ministers--perhaps the finance minister--would also depart for the United States to handle the matter personally.

TZIPORI TO DISCUSS ARAB ARMS ISSUE IN WASHINGTON

TA231615 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori is due to go to working and introductory talks in the United States. The deputy defense minister said before his departure that the new U.S. administration, in its attitude toward Israel, has revealed new dimensions of which we were never aware. The main topic of the talks will be the increasing rearmament of the Arab countries, led by Saudi Arabia. Our military correspondent spoke with Mordekhay Tzipori:

[Begin recording] [Tzipori] We are going as a team from the defense establishment to the United States and this, in fact, is the first official meeting between Isreal's defense establishment and that of the United States. I will not go into detail about what issues will be raised but when we present our positions concerning the arena and what is happening here--there is no doubt that the massive rearmament of the Arab countries in general, from all sorts of sources, and today from Western sources as well, Europe and the United States, too, that is an issue we will certainly discuss.

[Question] Several months have passed since the new administration in Washington began functioning. How do you assess that administrations' attitude toward us, toward Israel?

[Answer] To date we can say, as a result of the foreign minister's meetings in the United States, that the attitude is positive, it has dimensions we were never aware of in the relations between the United States and Israel, from the aspect of understanding, desire for cooperation and, I think, the most prominent example was provided last week in the United Nations. As for more substantive matters, in the future--we will have to see and discuss and then we will be able to judge according to the facts and not just according to the talks and the declaractions. [end recording]

BONN DENIES REPORT ON SCHMIDT MEDIATION ROLE

TA240813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] The Bonn government has denied a report that Chancellor Schmidt expressed readiness to mediate between Saudi Arabia and Israel over the status of Jerusalem. Bonn described the report in the afternoon paper MA'ARIV as pure speculation with no foundation in reality. According to the Israeli newspaper, the idea of West German mediation was mooted in contacts over arms supplies to Riyadh by Bonn and the Saudis have reportedly given a favorable response to the idea in the event of a change of government in Israel. Yesterday, however, the Saudis rejected a proposal by Labor Leader Shim'on Peres calling for negotiations with Israel if his party wins the June elections.

CHIEF OF STAFF MEETS WITH UNIFIL COMMANDER

TA231945 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] The chief of staff, Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan, met this afternoon in his office with UNIFIL Commander General Callaghan. Correspondent Dan Semama reports that the meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere, with the problems of southern Lebanon being reviewed in a good spirit. In the meeting, General Callaghan denied having made the remarks attributed to him concerning the alleged comparison he made between himself and his predecessor, General Erskine, regarding UNIFIL's activity in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent reports that the chief of staff, General Callaghan and the commander of the northern command will meet again in the near future, at which time they will try to bridge the differences between the two sides concerning the IDF's assistance to Haddad's men and the stationing of Lebanese Army battalions near the Christian enclave.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR RETURNS FROM AFRICA

TA241052 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Mar 81 p 1

[By Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche returned to Israel last night from a short visit to several countries on the African continent.

In this mission, Mr Kimche was working to advance Israel's relations with the black African countries which do not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

Israel has recently been making a constant political effort to improve its relations and deepen its links with the countries of the black continent.

Following this effort, a certain rapprochement has been reported between Israel and some of the continent's countries, but it is still too early to decide whether this will lead to a renewal of the diplomatic relations between them and Israel.

BEGIN SAYS TERRORISTS HAVE SOVIET, LIBYAN ARMS

TA241048 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Mar 81 p 3

[By Yohanan Lahav]

[Excerpt] In a talk yesterday with Irish Defense Minister Sylvester Barrett and Irish Chief of Staff General O'Sullivan, Prime Minister Menahem Begin revealed that the terrorists in Lebanon had recently received tanks and cannons from the Soviet Union and Libya.

The prime minister said that the weapons were supplied to the terrorists directly from the Soviet Union and Libya, which were working to strengthen them and the terrorist organizations' fighting equipment.

At that talk Mr Begin said that the terrorists and the Syrian Army of conquest forces were disrupting life in Lebanon and adding to the tension in the south of that country. According to the prime minister, most of the UNIFIL personnel hit in the recent incidents were hit by terrorist fire, not by that of Maj Sa'd Haddad's forces.

TZIPORI INTERVIEWED ON ARMS SALES, OTHER TOPICS

TA201511 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Mar 81 pp 11, 18

[Interview of Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori by Eytan Haber on 18 March; place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: How much did this year's [military] exports amount to compared with last year?

Answer: Your newspaper has published a report from New York that, as far as military exports are concerned, Israel ranks seventh among the world's countries. I would like neither to confirm nor deny this.

Question: We know how one sells stockings to France but how does one sell tanks? How does one sell aircraft?

Answer: The defense establishment has official representations in many countries whose job--in coordination with the Foreign Ministry--is to examine, find out, form ties, submit proposals and ultimately sell. There are agents in the world who cooperate with Israel; some of them Jewish, some not, with all sorts of motivations promoting them. We meet with senior representatives from all nations of the world. Some of the contacts are publicized, some of them are kept discreet. Not a week passes without such meetings taking place. In this field we have also managed to form close cooperation between the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry. The final decision on the sale of arms rests with the ministerial committee for security affairs.

Question: Did we ever turn down any country or other body?

Answer: Certainly: Many times, even when crucial deals were at hand.

Question: Whom do we refuse?

Answer: Those countries in which the domestic conflict has implications that do not coincide with Israel's world view.

Question: Did underground organizations also approach us?

Answer: There have been initial contacts. We are very cautious to stay clear of deals that Israel would find difficult to explain. I would like to add that we can, without exception, handle--in terms of public opinion--the fact that we went ahead with the deals.

Question: Do we sell arms to tyrannies?

Answer: The Soviet Union and Hungary--are they tyrannies or peoples' democracies? The regime within a country is that country's problem. As long as the rule is legal, we can negotiate with it just as we can with any other country.

Question: The Saudis, and now the Egyptians as well, have been receiving sophisticated Western arms the Arab armies did not possess in past wars. One of the IDF's advantages in the past was the quality of the Western arms. Is the gap between us and the armies of Egypt and Saudi Arabia narrowing?

Answer: Technologically, no doubt! If, for instance, the F-15 previously was the top aircraft in this area, today there are several top aircraft in the Arab countries and Israel. They have the same air-to-air missiles as we do. This is a rather serious implication for Israel. Our solution lies with the armament development authority and the Jewish mind. This will require an additional effort in terms of investment in research and development.

Question: In our assessment of the situation, is Egypt still an enemy?

Answer: Egypt is a country currently at peace with us, but I would hesitate to say that this is a stable peace.

Question: When one balances out the forces in the Middle East...

Answer: ...Then Egypt, as far as we are concerned, is a question mark.

Question: Is the dream that a strategic pact could be established between Egypt, Israel, the United States and Saudi Arabia bound to remain a dream?

Answer: One must judge according to the facts. It was in Saudi Arabia that the congress calling for a jihad against Israel was held and it is currently leading in anti-Israeli militancy by supporting the terrorists. One could say that the strategic pact is an illusion but in terms of a future potential, I think many things are still open. Did anyone 40 years ago think that a NATO pact would be established in Europe? And who is its leader and cornerstone? Germany! I am not ruling out the possibility that in our region, too, changes might occur. But Israel must observe the facts as they are rather than succumb to the desires of the heart.

Question: What is to be expected in the near future in relations between the Egyptian and Israeli defense establishments?

Answer: It seems to me that in the near future those relations will not go beyond the contacts over Sinai and the demilitarized zones there; contacts involving common problems such as smuggling, penetrations and the like. It seems to me that this would be the maximum. One can hardly say today that military cooperation between Israel and Egypt can be foreseen.

Question: Lately there have been reports about Egyptian violations in the Sinai. Some people tend to underestimate them, some overestimate them. What is the truth?

Answer: Those who initially were not happy with the agreement wish to find signs for the worse and seek ways to torpedo it. The problem of the school that advocates this and points to the violations is whether it is possible at all to torpedo the agreement. They say: What we lost, we lost! But let us stop at this juncture and be finished! There is, however, another school of thought that maintains: "Gentlemen, let us try to step into the other side's shoes." Any statesman or military figure who does not try to see what is going on beyond the hill will always raise obstacles. One must understand that there is another pair of eyes and another mind on the other side, too.

At the same time, there certainly is room for suspicion. How shall we put it: Honor him but be wary of him, as well. The facts are that Egypt should maintain a certain number of tanks, artillery pieces, armored personnel carriers and troops. In this respect, not only are the Egyptians not violating the peace agreement, they are maintaining fewer forces than they are permitted to hold. One must deal with the violations but there is a great distance between this and rejoicing over them.

Take a man like me. One of the first sounds I ever heard in this country was the voice of Arab pogroms and I have been a fighter for over 40 years now. It is quite difficult for me to trust one of them. Experience has taught us otherwise. We are extremely skeptical, and rightfully so. At the same time, as one who fought against the Egyptians during several wars and saw thousands of Egyptians killed and taken captive, I did not have any mental hangups about holding a dialogue with the Egyptians. I believe them.

Question: Yet they opened a PLO office in Al-'Arish?

Answer: There are signs that indicate that they have been shutting their eyes to the infiltration of terrorists into Israel through Egypt. The Egyptians have been forcefully denying this. When I was in Egypt and I saw soldiers on guard next to one of their institutions, I asked: What is this? They told me they had problems with the Palestinians since [Jordanian Prime Minister] Wasfi at-Tal was murdered and that is why they were guarding all sorts of institutions there. The official Egyptian responses are that they realize the danger of terrorism and will do anything against it. This may conflict with the fact that there is a PLO office in Cairo.

In Egypt there are people, also among the military, who would either like to ignore or support the PLO. I have no doubt about it. However, in Israel, do all people think like me, that one must honor the peace agreement and try to develop it?

Question: Do we know for sure about terrorists reaching Israel through the Sinai?

Answer: We know of one or two cases; the rest are suspicions.

Question: And the Egyptians knew about them?

Answer: This was not proved.

Question: And what about the PLO office in Al-'Arish?

Answer: There is no PLO office in Al-'Arish.

Question: Would it be correct to say that the terrorists have recently been operating on a mild scale?

Answer: It would be correct to say that the terrorists activity felt in Israel is very limited. Why? On the international plane, I think the terrorists have been trying to restrain themselves because, after all, the whole wide world is growing sick of them. So they restrain themselves, even though there are also signs to the contrary. This business may resume. I have no doubt that terrorist activity from Lebanon is on a small sclae for on reason: we have been striking them intensively and continually, based on inelligence information. We have established a clear-cut guideline that anywhere we can spot a terrorist concentration or trace their preparations, we hit them in any possible way.

Jordan has now learned the lesson of "black September" and it is most cautious. There is good control over the Jordanian border. The Syrians do not allow even one terrorist to operate on the Golan Heights from their border. They guard their border so that the Palestinians do not entangle them in problems. The remaining arena is the Lebanese front. Here the scandal is, as it were, international: there is a legitimate government of terrorists in Lebanon, complete with commands, open offices, a radio station and attempts at regular organizing.

They have 15,000 armed men. They are established. They have tanks and artillery, mortars and antiaircraft equipment. They also maintain all sorts of boats and frogmen. If a war should erupt, they could take responsibility of some sort over a certain front. A Palestinian battalion could also join the Syrian or Jordanian Army. This is certainly a possibility.

Question: Is the IDF taking this into account?

Answer: Certainly, but we will try to have them have less battalions if a war should break out.

Question: One could clearly discern a trend of underestimating the terrorists' glider penetration attempts. Do you, too, tend to underestimate this operation?

Answer: I underestimate nothing that has to be combatted and which involves problems. I myself once dealt with such operations and there is no end to sophistication of them. This is a war of minds but still, we knew about their preparation for a long time; we knew about baloons, gliders. We know there are Palestinian pilots that are being trained. All this definitely creates a threat to civilian life.

The terrorists do not lack money. They have unlimited aid from the Eastern bloc. They can buy [arms] in Europe, they can get things from the Syrian Army and the Libyan Army. They also have places to train in. They have a lot of options. Therefore one could regard our war against the terrorists as one of the greatest achievements scored by the State of Israel and all the branches of the defense establishment.

Question: Last week there were problems with Major Haddad in southern Lebanon. Can they be solved?

Answer: I think Major Haddad sometimes causes us embarrassment and problems we could have lived without and ones that contribute nothing--either to Major Haddad or to the State of Israel. Israel has to handle this issue.

Question: Among other things, is this under your jurisdiction?

Answer: Certainly, and I have been doing my best.

SMITH POLL ON ELECTION OUTLOOK FOR NEW PARTIES

TA231210 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Mar 81 p 17

[Hanokh Smith election forecast: "The Riddle: Dayan, the Leading Candidate in Foreign Policy; but 43 Percent Think He Should Not Run for the Knesset"]

[Text] One of the unanswered questions at this early stage of the election campaign is whether Moshe Dayan would establish a party and run for the Knesset; and, more importantly, if he should decide to run, what will be the number of people who would give him their vote and what would the Dayan-led party's influence on the next coalition be?

In this respect, questions founded on guesswork presented in public opinion polls may easily be misleading. Even though the results of the polls indicate that Moshe Dayan has a footing among parts of the Israeli electorate, until he does establish a party that has a plan and presents other figures to the public, it is impossible to seriously examine the level of public support his party would enjoy.

However, one can see the footing he has in public opinion in the field of foreign policy, for example. Dayan is still the political leader that has the largest number of supporters, as the responses to the following question will show:

Political leaders normally explain their views on foreign policy. Of the following personalities, with whom would you sympathize?

Name	March 1981	Aug-Sep 1980
	(Figures in percentages)	
Moshe Dayan	18	18
Menahem Begin	17	16
Yitzhaq Shamir	8	-
'Ezer Weizman	5	14
Shim'on Peres	13	5
Yitzhaq Rabin	11	13
Abba Eban	9	15
Others	4	3
No opinion	16	15

Compared to the public opinion poll conducted 6 months ago, in August-September 1980, Dayan is still leading in foreign affairs, enjoying an 18-percent support, followed immediately by Menahem Begin with 17 percent.

After Dayan and Begin, certain changes marked in the last few months are discernible. As a resultof 'Ezer Weizman's retirement from public life, the percentage of his supporters declined to a mere 5 percent. This decline was almost completely offset by the increase in the support for Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who, being new at the job was not included in the previous poll. Now, 8 percent of the voters indicated that he is the man they support the most in terms of foreign policy.

Among Alignment leaders there was also a change. Shim'on Peres is currently the Alignment leader with whom there is greatest agreement, followed by Yitzhaq Rabin and Abba Eban.

What stands out particularly is not so much the changes as the fact that Dayan continues to head the list. What also transpires from the poll is that no leader has captured the hearts of a large number of voters, even though Shim'on Peres has enjoyed a marked rise in popularity, especially at Abba Eban's expense.

Yet these findings are not real proof of political power: the fact that people agree with your views does not necessarily indicate that they would also vote for you. To determine this in the clearest manner the Smith Institution pollsters presented 1,200 voters with the question of whom they would like to see in the lists for the Knesset elections. Some of the replies were pretty surprising:

There are some public figures whose political standing has not yet been fully determined; in your opinion, should they run for the Knesset, and if so, on behalf of what party?

Name	Should not run	On a new or independent list	With the Likud	With the Alignment	With another party	No opinion
			(Figures in percentages)			
Moshe Dayan	43	17	9	14	3	14
'Ezer Weizman	31	19	14	12	5	19
Yiga'el Hurvitz	50	12	12	3	5	18
Hayim Herzog	15	8	6	42	2	27
Avraham Shavit	30	8	11	13	4	34

Perhaps the greatest surprise is that 43 percent of those polled expressed their opinion that Moshe Dayan should not run for the Knesset at all and 14 percent did not express any view on the matter. About 17 percent think that he should run on an independent list and 26 percent believe that he should run with an existing party--most of the people advocating the Alignment. At this stage, not all those included in the 14 percent figure of those who have no opinion on this matter can be grouped with the indecisive voters who are waiting for Dayan to run. In fact, many of them currently support either the Likud or the Alignment and may turn over to Dayan if he decides to run; alternatively, they may support his candidacy with the hope that he would snatch away votes from the main competitor of their favored party. This shows that if Dayan should decide to run for the Knesset on an independent ticket, he might "grab" some votes both from the Alignment and from the Likud.

What is even more surprising is perhaps that 'Ezer Weizman is more sought after than Moshe Dayan, both as a candidate of a new independent party and as a candidate on behalf of existing parties. If this is his current image, then Weizman is no doubt a political asset in these or future elections.

Yiga'el Hurvitz is the least popular among all the candidates in the list of leaders "whose position is not yet clear." And yet, 12 percent of those polled said they would like to see him run on an independent party's ticket. However, the RAFI list which he heads got very few votes in the March poll--approximately 1 percent--so that very few who wanted to see him run on an independent list were prepared to support him when this option was actually presented to them. Perhaps many of those polled wanted him to run together with Dayan or other candidates.

Yet the Hurvitz affair proves that people who encourage candidates to run on independent lists, devoid of a plan or a list of candidates, are living under an illusion. If Dayan receives large support should he decide to run independently--and this is not clearly indicated by the results of the current poll--his strong standing as an expert on foreign affairs might make such a possibility feasible. But the proof of this could only been seen when his political plans and the identity of the political figures who would join him become clear.

Hayim Herzog, who was independent for a while, has joined the Alignment and has the smallest number of opponents; only 15 percent think he had better not run for the elections at all.

Avraham Shavit, who enjoyed great popularity as a result of his activities as the chairman of the El Al broad of directors, in previous Smith institute polls--though not necessarily as a political figure--has not enjoyed large support for running in the elections. It nevertheless seems that he is favored both as a Likud and an Alignment candidate to the exact same extent, and some voters would like to see him run on an independent list.

The Dayan riddle remains even as the results of this poll are being unfolded. An analysis also points to the strong and weak aspects of his possible candidacy. It may transpire that he only enjoys marginal support (as Hurvitz enjoys at this stage) but he may gather a lot of power. Much depends on Dayan himself; perhaps even more depends on the two large parties: if real support for the Likud and the Alignment increases, Dayan may enjoy limited support only, but if the two large parties do not win the heart of the public in their credibility, new parties headed by Dayan and others may stand good chances of succeeding at the ballot boxes.

OAU CHAIRMAN FAULTS REAGAN'S SOUTH AFRICA POLICY

AB232135 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] The current chairman of the OAU, President Siaka Stevens, has described the world situation as tense, adding that every nation should do everything possible to lessen the present strain. Speaking at an official State House reception this morning to mark his return from a 10-nation tour of East, Central and southern Africa, Dr Stevens added that nations of the Third World constantly look up to the superpowers to set an example in the maintenance of world peace.

President Stevens criticized moves being made by the new Reagan administration in the United States with regard to South Africa and its policy of apartheid. He said the new administration in Washington was taking South Africa as a bastion of Western democracy [words indistinct] and giving it support in spite of the fact that the South African Government continued its harassment of Angola and Mozambique. No power on earth, President Stevens declared, can sit on the safety valve of human emotion forever. He said all that black South Africans ask for is that the white man should get off their back and walk by their side.

President Stevens proposed industrial action as an alternative to waging the liberation war in South Africa as Pretoria's economy has become more dependent on its industrial production which is based on gold, cobalt, uranium and other mineral resources. He expressed the hope that South Africa would come to its senses in time to avoid a conflict which has every chance of escalation.

Speaking on another issue of concern, Dr Stevens deplored America's decision to grant recognition to UNITA forces in Angola and the pending visit of UNITA's leader, Jonas Savimbi, to Washington. These moves, he went on, were in direct conflict with existence of the legitimately elected Government of Angola and an attempt at destabilizing the country. He said he had sent a letter to President Reagan on the issue and proposes to dispatch a special mission to the American Government on behalf of the OAU, to protest against the recognition of the UNITA movement. If possible, he will summon a special meeting of the OAU to consider the matter. The OAU chairman said the Organization of African Unity wants to cooperate with nations, but said that the steps taken by the United States do not augur well for the preservation of international peace.

On another topic, Dr Stevens said that if the refugee problem was not solved promptly, it would become an international hazard. He (?planned) to make a strong appeal for immediate assistance for refugees at the forthcoming conference on refugees scheduled in Geneva next month. His stay at a refugee camp in Somalia was an unforgettable experience which revealed the subhuman conditions under which they live.

On OAU matters, Dr Stevens again called for the setting up a permanent security council by the OAU as an authoritative body to handle serious situations that may develop in the continent. Describing his visit to the OAU and the Economic Commission for Africa [ECA] headquarters in Addis Ababa as heroic [as heard], he was pleased to note that a good number of Africans hold responsible positions in the ECA secretariat [words indistinct] of labor as are competent to man positions of responsibility.

President Stevens said during his visit to Zimbabwe, he had a private meeting with the coleader of the Patriotic Front, Mr Joshua Nkomo, with particular reference to the struggle between him and Prime Minister Mugabe.

The All-People's Congress [APC], he finally added, has put Sierra Leone on the map and the country was no longer unknown as in the past, despite the fact that it has been a source of Western civilization in this part of the world.

Earlier, the first vice president, Mr S.I. Koroma, in welcoming President Stevens, described him as a distinguished head of state, whose visit to the various African states as chairman of the OAU has revealed that our problems in Sierra Leone were not as great as those existing in other African states.

A member of the delegation, (Mr Maningis Garba), a well-known lawyer, outlined his experience during the tour, observing that it was a rewarding achievement. (Mr Garba) recounted in particular the delegation's visit to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Uganda as well as the discussions which will remain indelible in his mind. At the reception were the second vice president, Mr C. Kamara-Taylor, the chief justice, Mr Justice Liversy Luke; the speaker, Mr Justice William Betts; Cabinet ministers, diplomats and cross-section of the Freetown community.

OAU ISSUES STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACKS

LD202220 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 20 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The OAU has called on the international community to vehemently condemn the unprovoked acts of aggression being committed by the terrorist South African regime against neighboring Angola and Mozambique.

In a press statement here in Addis Ababa, the OAU pointed out that Angola and Mozambique have become the targets of persistent South African aggression because of their abiding commitment to the total liberation of the continent. It urged the OAU member states to go beyond mere condemnation and boldly assume their obligations to the liberation of southern Africa from colonial and racist rule. The OAU also urged the international community to express strong solidarity with the oppressed black majorities of Namibia and South Africa.

OAU COMMITTEE CALLS FOR ESTABLISHING OIL RESERVES

LD212327 Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 1600 GMT 21 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Arusha--The OAU Standing Committee on Sanctions has called for the establishment of oil reserves in southern African states in case of effective oil sanctions against racist South Africa. The committee has ended its 5-day meeting in Arusha after adopting 12 recommendations on effective sanctions against the Boers.

A spokesman of the committee said it also suggested the blacklisting of oil tankers which will unload oil in South African ports. The blacklisted ships should be prohibited to enter at any port in Africa and in many friendly countries in the world. The spokesman said the meeting further called on OAU states to work with OPEC countries in (?collecting) the necessary (?statistics) about the required oil stockpiles by southern African states and the application of the effective oil sanctions.

On the possibility of vetoes by Western permanent members of the Security Council, the meeting suggested to the OAU to resort on calling an emergency session of the UN General Assembly. The meeting also called for diplomatic and political efforts by OAU states in order to make the sanctions against the Boers effective.

The meeting was chaired by the Zambian foreign minister, Ndugu Lameck Goma, and was attended by delegates from Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Libya, as well as delegates from various international organizations.

ALGERIA

CPSU DELEGATION LED BY RASHIDOV ARRIVES 22 MAR

LD231312 Algiers APS in English 1127 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Algiers, 23 Mar (APS)--An important delegation of the Soviet Communist Party led by Mr S.R. Rashidov, substitute member of the Politburo arrived here yesterday, on a several day official visit to Algeria, at the invitation of FLN party.

In a short statement upon arrival, Mr Rashidov stressed the good relations existing between the Soviet Communist Party and FLN [passage indistinct]. An important factor for the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between our states and peoples, Mr Rashidov added. [sentence as received] He paid homage to Algeria's role for emancipation of peoples, and in favour of peoples struggling for their liberation.

Political talks between the two parties started yesterday and are expected to cover bilateral relations.

CUBA'S SOTO HOLDS TALKS WITH FLN OFFICIALS

FL231523 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1503 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Lionel Soto, member of the Central Committee Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba, is visiting Algeria to discuss matters of common interest to the two countries. On his first day there, Lionel Soto held a working meeting with Slimane Hoffmann, chairman of the External Relations Committee of the FLN, and with the chief of the economic and social department of the Algerian political organization, (Mohamed Delushik).

Soto and other officials also chaired the fifth review meeting of the party committee of the Cuban mission in Algeria. At the meeting its participants reaffirmed their decision to be worthy workers and soldiers of the revolution. The delegates agreed to send a message to the highest levels of the Cuban leadership expressing their total support for the resolutions adopted at the second party congress.

LIBYA

LEBANESE FRONT OFFICIAL PRAISES AIR COVER OFFER

LD232042 Tripoli JANA in English 1505 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Beirut, 23 Mar (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--Mr. Tariq Alamili, member of the Lebanese Patriotic Movement [L.P.N.] in south Lebanon, said that the Jamahiriyah's offer to provide air cover for south Lebanon proves the goodwill and genuineness of the slogans raised by the Great Al-Fatah Revolution. In a statement to JANA's correspondent in the Lebanese south, he said that the Lebanese Government's rejection of the offer proves that it is not willing to take an active role in the Arab-(Israeli) conflict although Lebanon has suffered the Zionist occupation of her lands as a direct result of this conflict.

Mr. Alamili added that the Lebanese authorities must take a decisive stand on this issue, put all of its efforts into this battle against the Zionist enemy and accept the Libyan offer. He also praised the Jamahiriyah's assistance to south Lebanon saying that it has greatly contributed to the steadfastness of the south.

MAURITANIA

LE MONDE ARTICLES VIEW SITUATION IN MAURITANIA

Saharan, Moroccan Issues

LD231155 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Mar 81 p 3

[Part one of Paul Balta dispatch: "Mauritania on Its Guard, I--Overflying an Endless Border..."]

[Text] Bir Mogrein (formerly Fort-Trinquet)--"Mobile 13, what is your position? Drop back to Tango One... Mobile 13 go to ima ive and wait for us." Capt Breyka Ould Mbarek, commander of the second military region, was giving orders to a patrol responsible for border surveillance in the Zouirat sector, where the famous iron mines are to be found, and the Kediet-Idjil (formerly Fort-Gouraud) sector, of which we covered 100 km with him in the late afternoon.

We found "Mobile 13" on the return trip--2 Land Rovers and around 10 men who had been on a mission for 10 days near the La Cheriat Guelb (Little Mountain). On the hillside a lookout surveyed the horizon: The Western Saharan border lies at a distance of less than 10 km of flat sandy desert. Captain Breyka, who is lively, energetic, seeing to everything, shares with head of state Colonel Ould Haydala, Lieutenant Colonel Boukreis, head of the first military region, and with a handful of officers, the reputation of having fought particularly well against the Polisario Front guerrillas. Today, however, the Alliance for a Democratic Mauritania [AMD] oppositionists, backed by Morocco, accuse them of being "accomplices" of that same front.

"I have a series of posts throughout my zone, along the borders with the Western Sahara, Algeria and Mali," the captain told us, "and I can assure you that there is no Polisario camp or concentration of Polisario people on our territory. The Saharans are observing the peace agreement which we signed 5 August 1979. When my men detect fresh tracks in the sand they follow them. But it is obvious that nobody can guarantee to seal off the desert completely."

In Nouakchott Prime Miniser Sid Ahmed Ould Bneijar and Chief of General Staff Col Moawiya Ould Taya has given us the same assurances. The government chief did not conceal his anxiety over the press campaign launched by Morocco alleging that the Polisario Front was transferring its bases from the Tindouf region to northern Mauritania, and was sending many fighters' families on ahead. King Hassan II's impromptu visit to Paris had caused surprise and the Mauritanian leaders had very quickly revealed that, according to their information, the king had gone to inform President Giscard d'Estaing about a possible operation being planned against the Nouakchott regime and to ask for his "go ahead."

The rotor-driven Defender which took off from Zouerate put us down at Bir-Mogrein after following the border. In fine weather, as was the case, you can see for 100 km all around. "As you can see, the north is the loneliest, most desolate, most hostile and poorest areas--aside from the Zouerate region--and is the most sparsely populated in the country," the captain told us. Since the pump in one of the aircraft's tanks had stopped working we had to turn back. A few days earlier, however, Gen Ahmed Dlimi had himself ruled out a transfer of Polisario bases. "They are still in the Tindouf region.... the Polisario stands to gain nothing from depriving itself of the infrastructure with which the Algerian hinterland provides it. It would only fall back on Mauritania if Algeria withdrew its support, but Algeria would, at the same time, lose all control over it. Al-Qadhdhafi would probably take over on his own, but we would then be treading unknown ground," he explained to us.

On the subject of this conflict there has been a great deal of talk about Chegga, a remote oasis which stirs the imagination all the more because no foreigner has set foot there for a long time.

The French had built a fort there in the thirties to complete the conquest of Mauritania, and then they built a runway in 1957-1958 which they used during the Algerian war and during the "Ecouvillon operation," which enabled them to push back the Saharans in the Moroccan liberation army in order to restore the Western Sahara to the Spanish.

"Those who say that Al-Qadhdhafi is sending aircraft loaded with weapons to Chegga are not acquainted with the terrain and have probably never examined the map closely," Captain Breyka told us. "This oasis is some 700 ot 800 km from Tindouf and around 1,000 km from Polisario bases like Amgale or Haouza. It would take dozens of trucks to unload the aircraft and they would be easy to detect. Why have the Moroccans, who have an army of 140,000 men and an air force, which Mauritania does not have, failed to intercept, strafe or simply photograph such convoys?"

Returning to E-N-Ouadhibou after refueling in Zouirat, the Defender overflew the endless railroad which follows the border as far as Choum, where it makes a 90-degree turn toward the Atlantic. You can clearly see the defenses constructed during the war to protect the train and the wells which are still in use, notably at Bou Lanouar. "This built-up area was bombed by a Moroccan F-5 squadron 29 July 1980. As you were able to see, the 250-kg bombs fell near the water tower, and it seems likely that that was the target because it is Bou Lanouar which supplies water to E-N-Ouadhibou and all the posts in a line as far as Zouirat," Lieutenant Colonel Boukreis explained.

He then strongly denied the role attributed to E-N-Ouadhibou in Polisario strategy: "The Saharans do not need this port for their supplies--a port which is a long way from their bases. Nor do they need it for putting their Zodiacs to sea, because they have hiding places in the Western Sahara and have shown that they could move quite quickly from Tindouf to the Atlantic."

The Mauritanian leaders are surprised that Rabat has accused them of not remaining neutral in the Saharan conflict. They are particularly surprised by this since their relations with Polisario were strained during the first quarter of the year. In fact, seven Saharans entered Nouakchott incognito 18 January and lured two "deserters" into a trap. After tying them up they took them back to the Tindouf camps. The affair caused a great deal of fuss. The population was outraged at the method used and Mauritania felt that its sovereignty had been violated.

A "Tour of the Messes"

Polisario had made a gesture by releasing 72 prisoners, including 7 civilians, on 5 February. About 10 of them have since resumed their work at the National Industrial and Mining Company in Zouirat and E-N-Ouadhibou. Shortly after that a Polisario delegation headed by Assistant Secretary General Mustapha Bachier visited Nouakchott 10 to 14 February. With regard to the 18 January incident, it apparently explained that every army in the world has deserters and must punish them.

According to the Mauritanian leaders who took part in the discussions, the Saharans at no time asked for bases to be granted. On the other hand they expressed the wish that Mauritania recognize the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, but their request was rejected. "Our relations with Polisario were established publicly and openly on the basis of the position adopted by the OAU," the prime minister told us. "We are anxious that there be no misunderstanding. We believe in the right to self-determination which might lead to independence. We have recognized Polisario as representing the legitimacy of a struggle and a people who are close to us. There was the colonial phenomenon, which cannot be ignored because it changed things. The principle of the borders inherited from colonization is an inviolable principle. The whole of Africa agrees on that point."

Ould Bneijara explained, however, that Nouakchott has not recognized the SDAR because "as long as there is any hope at OAU level we do not want Mauritania to make any gesture which might make positions more inflexible or hinder the possibility of an agreement."

It was against that background that head of state Colonel Haydala, accompanied by members of the Military Committee for National Salvation and the chief of staff, had made a "tour of the messes" at E-N-Ouadhibou, Bou Lanouar and Inal. He was apparently expecting military action and exhorted the troops to be vigilant. Nonetheless, it was on the domestic front that the oppositionists attacked, thinking that there was a "political vaccuum" in Nouakchott and that Mr Bneijara's government was too weak.

After Attempted Coup

LD231433 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Mar 81 p 3

[Part two of Paul Balta dispatch: "A Country on Its Guard, II--A Transitional Government"]

[Text] Nouakchott--"The civilian government which I have headed since 15 December last year comes between the military government which emerged from the 10 July 1978 movement which overthrew the old regime and the Cabinet which will emerge from the National Assembly which the people elect," Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara told us a few days before the abortive coup. The prime minister, who is the leader of the civilians who joined with the military to overthrow President Ould Daddah, was eager to explain that he backs the pledges made by the CMSN: restoring peace, which has been done; economic recovery, which is now in progress; and finally the impending establishment of democratic institutions.

It was apparently because they had noted that they lacked any "base" and had not succeeded in reviving political life that the CMSN officers handed power back to the civilians. Public rumor has it that they were in fact divided and that it was President Haydala who precipitated matters and presented his opponents with a fait accompli by announcing the "return to civilian" rule on 12 December. Things then moved quickly: On 14 December the prime minister was appointed; the next day he announced the composition of his government, and 4 days later the draft constitution, which is to be put to a referendum, was published. In short, the army, although it has not completely returned to barracks, is guaranteeing to maintain law and order but is entrusting the running of the country to civilians.

This change is having a "decompression" effect. People are starting to talk freely, sometimes spreading whimsical rumors, and many groups are already contemplating forming parties, at the risk of fragmenting the political class to the advantage of a few big traditional groupings. Various factions are settling old scores.

It is in this context that Ahmed Baba Miske, who portrayed himself as the "pilgrim of peace" and the architect of the Mauritanian-Saharan agreement of 5 August 1979, and one of his friends, the nationalist Ahmed Wafi, were arrested 28 December and then placed under house arrest. Immediately after that, three Libyan diplomats, accused of plotting, were expelled. According to some reports Miske and Wafi were the victims of a provocation by elements of security forces in the pay of the pro-Iraqis supported by Baghdad, which is giving considerable aid to Nouakchott: 1.3 million ouguiyas (10 ouguiyas equal 1 Fr). Another theory attributes the arrests to officials who support the Alliance for a Democratic Mauritania--an opposition movement which inspired the abortive coup and wanted to sow discord in the leadership team.

The fact that the head of state went on vacation immediately afterward and was absent 7 through 29 January fueled the rumors, particularly since friction was arising between the authorities and Polisario representatives at the same time. Some people even went so far as to wonder whether Mauritania, which asserted its intention to remain completely neutral between Algeria and Morocco, was not going to tip its policy in the latter's favor. That did not happen.

Exorcising the Demons of Regionalism and Tribalism

The prime minister is a nationalist and a strong character, like the head of state, who had backed down to allow him to assert himself, and he has tried to take things in hand. "There is perfect coordination between the CMSN and the government," he told us. "We implemented the first phase of the transitional period by the formation of my cabinet, but that does not mean that we are going to open the door to chaos, to all kinds of individual interests and to the weakening of Mauritania. We reject the demons of regionalism, tribalism and ethnic racism."

Refusing to allow itself to lose control, the CMSN decided to review the draft constitution. It was then to draw up a timetable for implementing the democratic process and to establish the political tools vital to its proper implementation. "Criteria will be defined to ensure that the parties--two, three or more, it has not yet been decided--are formed on the basis of ideas and at national level and not on the basis of tribal solidarity or regional interests," Ould Bneijara also told us. The question now is whether the abortive putsch will help speed up the democratic process or will, on the contrary, prompt the military to restore their control. The wise course would be for the first solution to prevail since it will give the government a real popular base.

At diplomatic level, after a period of vacillation and uncertainty, Mauritania had also improved its relations with two of its main partners: France and Senegal. [French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs] Olivier Stirn's recent visit confirmed that the tensions which had affected relations between Paris and Nouakchott in the first half of 1980 were well and truly forgotten.

Many Contradictions

In addition it seems that the Senegalese Government knew nothing about the conspirators' plans. In any case, Abdou Diouf's visit to Nouakchott 5 March demonstrated that contacts with the new head of state are more relaxed and trusting than with President Senghor. At the same time, relations with Libya and the Polisario had been clarified inasmuch as the government had strongly reaffirmed its intention to uphold a policy of national independence.

As regards Morocco, several leaders had told us: "We are very anxious to maintain relations of cooperation and harmony while realizing that that will not always be easy as long as the Western Sahara conflict continues." At that time they certainly did not imagine that Nouakchott would break off diplomatic relations with Rabat 1 week later.

Finally, in the economic sphere Ould Bneijara disputes the negative verdicts passed by oppositionists abroad who, he stressed, "have no influence," and asserted that the regime formed 10 July has kept its promises and carried out a considerable amount of work. He explained that at length in public 9 March, at the first data seminar held in the country. "The former regime," he stated, "had left $20 million in currency reserves, while there were $150 million in currency reserves in 1980. Today the treasury is facing up to its promises and the budgetary deficit has already been reduced from 5.2 to 3.8 billion ouguiyas."

In addition, the first phase of the Guelb project, which is to breathe new life into iron production, started 3 months ago, while the Akjoujt Copper Mine, closed under the former regime, is to reopen in 2 weeks' time with the aid of Arab countries who have invested more than $200 million.

The Nouakchott-Nema link (1,200 km), known as the "road of hope," is making consistent progress: It has just reached Timbedra and there are only 110 km of asphalt to be laid, although it had only reached Boutilimit, 150 km from Nouakchott, in 1978.

The leaders do not deny that Mauritanian society, which is extraordinarily complex, has many contradictory aspects: tribal, ethnic, economic and social. They do not think, however, that it is in danger of falling apart: "We went through much more difficult times during and after the war," they said. "If the country was going to fall apart it would have done so then. Indeed, the different elements in the population are attached to Mauritania's unity, and the democratic process is bound to strengthen that feeling in a society in which the decisions were traditionally taken by consensus within the jemaa (assembly)."

It is true that in 3 years the 10 July movement has made many crucial decisions, in particular the abolition of slavery and the introduction of cultural reform, which should make it possible to teach the black African communities' national languages in addition to Arabic. However, these reforms, like other less spectacular but nonetheless essential reforms, still have to really come into force. That presupposes that the government obtains the support of the entire nation.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA TO ASK FOR END TO ANTI-MOROCCAN ACTIVITY

LD231352 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 23 Mar (MAP)--Mr M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, left here Sunday heading for Tunis leading the Moroccan delegation which will participate in the works of the seventy fifth session of the Ministerial Council of the Arab League. Before leaving, Mr Boucetta made a declaration to the Moroccan news agency MAP in which he said that this ordinary session of the league would examine Arab questions especially the ones related to the organization and Arab action.

The Moroccan minister of state said "this session will examine all the questions raised during the summits of Amman and Baghdad, the organization and development of Arab action for the good of the sacred cause of the Arab nation namely the Palestinian cause and the Middle East question." Mr Boucetta also indicated that this session would deal with major issues for the Arab world namely the Afro-Arab and Arab-European dialogues and other questions and inter-Arab divergences.

The Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation precised that the question of the tension currently prevailing in the African north west was also included in the agenda of the session and said in this line "we must put this question in its genuine context and ask for the condemnation of unfounded allegations against Morocco". Mr Boucetta concluded saying "we shall ask for the denunciation and the end of aggressions perpetrated against the territory and integrity of Morocco and we shall explain that all this is a conspiracy aimed at harming the sovereignty and independence of Morocco".

SAUDI ARABIA TO SUPERVISE INTERESTS IN MAURITANIA

LD231750 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Casablanca, 23 Mar (MAP)--Mr Ahmed Mjdi, Moroccan Ambassador to Nouakchott, returned here Saturday in the company of the members of the Moroccan diplomatic representation in Mauritania after the breaking off of diplomatic relations with this country. According to close sources to the Moroccan Ministry of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Embassy of Saudi Arabia will supervise Moroccan interests in Mauritania.

ETHIOPIA

U.S. PLAN TO AID ANGOLAN 'TERRORISTS' DENOUNCED

LD211650 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 21 Mar 81 EA

[Text] A spokesman for socialist Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs today said that the Reagan administration's request to the U.S. Congress to lift the aid embargo imposed on the terrorists in Angola was astounding. The spokesman said that the step taken by the Reagan administration was deliberately aimed at destabilizing the legitimate government of the sister country, and added that the move was a declaration of enmity not only against Angola, but also against the other independent African countries. Therefore, he said, the move should be strongly condemned by African countries and the international community.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the fact that the Reagan administration had started a campaign against the independence and unity of African countries was becoming clearer. He said that Washington's help to racist and terrorist governments and groups must be taken as a clear indication to Africa of its intention to harm African countries. Since the move was also an open encouragement to South Africa to enable it to keep Namibia under its yoke of oppression, Africa should concentrate on this threat and must be prepared for an appropriate reprisal, he said.

The spokesman said in his statement that Washington was inclined to give support to terrorist groups not only in the African Continent, but also all over the world. He called on all peace- and freedom-loving peoples to condemn the arrogance of the Reagan administration and to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the independent African countries. The spokesman went on to say that socialist Ethiopia had repeatedly made it known that it was up to the Angolan people and the peoples of the other independent African countries to shape their own destiny and to pursue their own path of development. Therefore, the spokesman pointed out, the United States had no right whatsoever to force its will upon the peoples of Africa. He said that, as with other independent and sovereign countries, African countries will not be subjected to Washington's directives and dictatorial orders.

ERITREAN REVOLUTION GROUPS AGREE TO SEEK UNITY

LD232358 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] The Eritrean revolution groups ended their 4-day meeting at the Arab League premises in Tunis this evening. The meeting was chaired by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and were attended by representatives of all four Eritrean groups.

The meeting ended with the unanimous agreement of all the Eritrean revolution groups on the need to eliminate all differences between themselves, and to devote all their efforts and capabilities toward the realization of the Eritrean people's objectives for freedom and independence. Second, they agreed to immediately cease fighting between the revolution groups in whatever form and to direct their guns and capabilities toward the common enemy, to give freedom of action to all the groups in the arena, and to seek peaceful solutions for their existing conflicts. Third, they agreed to halt all hostile information campaigns among the revolution groups and the Eritrean people. Fifth [as heard], they agreed to devote all efforts, particularly in the field of information, toward creating the necessary climates for the coming unity. Finally, they agreed to set up a joint committee representing all groups of the revolution to follow up the efforts made during the transitional period.

KENYA

PRESIDENT MOI WELCOMES DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT

LD211632 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1004 GMT 21 Mar 81 EA

[Welcoming speech by President Moi to Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport--live or recorded]

[Text] Mr President: On this memorable occasion of your visit to our country, I extend to Your Excellency a warm heartfelt welcome to the Republic of Kenya. [applause]

Our two countries have had similar experience in the struggle for human dignity and freedom. Indeed, we rejoice that the Republic of Djibouti has been able to join other sister states in working for the advancement of our peoples. Our two nations find themselves in a geographical region that has some particular social, economic and political problems and yet with good will and cooperation the countries in the region has the potential to solve these problems.

Our primary task as leaders must therefore be geared towards the creation of conditions for peace and mutual trust throughout this region. It is only through cooperation that we can hope to satisfy common aspirations for economic progress and social justice while at the same time ensuring that our younger people are suitably prepared to become leaders of tomorrow.

Mr President, I am confronted by the anxiety you yourself have shown for peace as the foundation of prosperity. We are all aware of the economic burden and environmental condition existing in our respective countries. The related challenges must be faced in the spirit of cooperation if we are to prevent them from growing harsher in the coming years. Therefore, we must strengthen our unity and solidarity in the continent.

We should never allow political disputes to undermine the spirit of unity. Our responsibility to the people of Africa demands that regional cooperation be made more positive and practical. This should be extended and maintained until Africa is brought to self-reliance and a real force in global affairs. My dear brother and colleague, I look forward to fruitful discussion with Your Excellency on bilateral and broader matters of mutual interest. I thank Your Excellency for accepting our invitation to visit Kenya and I would like, on behalf of my government and the people of Kenya, to once again welcome you to our country. Please feel completely at home among brothers and sisters. Thank you. [applause]

TANZANIA

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS AFRICAN PROBLEM AREAS

LD231129 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 17 Mar 81 p 6

[APS report on an interview given "recently" by Tanzanian Foreign Minister Salim Ahmad Salim to an APS representative in Addis Ababa]

[Text] We describe below the subjects mentioned in this interview and Salim Ahmad Salim's answers:

Algerian-Tanzanian relations

[Salim Ahmad Salim] The state of these relations can now be deemed excellent, as a result of the fact that they are based on a common commitment and desires. Furthermore, our views on all major political problems in the international sphere coincide, and we jointly strive to ensure Africa's complete liberation. And, last but not least, as a result of the fact that bonds between our countries have been established on the basis of historical experience and are continually being strengthened, there now exists, just as there existed in the past, an obvious desire for developing Algerian-Tanzanian cooperation.

We attach very great importance to our ties with Algeria, since they constitute a strong demonstration of friendship. We have a Swahili proverb which says: "A friend in need is a friend indeed." Algeria has effectively helped us in some difficult moments. This factor and many others have strengthened our conviction that our bilateral relations should be developed in all spheres, whether with respect to economic cooperation or to increased exchanges in the cultural, educational and scientific spheres and so forth....

Situation in Africa, Especially in Frontline Countries, Namibia and West Sahara

[Salim Ahmad Salim] Obviously, these are three important subjects which should be placed in a proper perspective. I will begin with the frontline countries' specific position in the light of the failure of negotiations concerning Namibia. We must face up to the fact that we are now passing through a period of challenge in southern Africa. Not only has the South African racist regime obstructed the path of negotiations concerning the problem of Namibia, but it also has openly attacked some independent African countries. We all know that bloody raids against Angola, Mozambique and Zambia have become daily occurrences and an integral part of Pretoria's policy directed against independent Africa.

The recent act of aggression against Mozambique represents a dangerous escalation whose consequences for international peace and security will be very grave. This is the first aspect of the problem. Its second aspect concerns the question of Namibia itself. I believe that South Africa's tactics aimed at internationalizing the conflict are connected with its weak position which is a result, anyway, of its constant challenge to the international community with respect to the question of Namibia's decolonization.

This decolonization is not merely a problem concerning the frontline countries; it is also both an African problem, since it concerns liberation, and a UN problem insofar as the international community has been involved in it. We engaged in negotiations on the one hand with a "contact group" of five Western countries (France, Canada, the FRG, Britain and the United States) and, on the other, with the frontline countries and Nigeria, which support the SWAPO cause. Throughout these negotiations, SWAPO made some very important concessions in order to achieve a negotiated settlement. African states backed these concessions through us and the OAU. We reached a stage where the UN plan for Namibia should have been implemented since the African states, the five Western states and SWAPO accepted it.

South Africa was the only missing link. In Geneva we believed that the conference on Namibia was to strive to implement this plan, but the Geneva conference was a failure because Pretoria's representatives rejected everything and must now assume full responsibility for this failure.

In addition to these considerations, two other questions should be taken into account. The first concerns the dangers inherent in the situation in southern Africa because of the South African challenge, and the second concerns the need to intensify the armed struggle in Namibia and SWAPO, and this is a task for which SWAPO must be entirely responsible. As for African states and other countries belonging to the international community, they have the duty to help the Namibian combatants.

As far as a continuation of the struggle in the diplomatic sphere is concerned, the five Western powers have a special moral and political obligation to exert pressure on South Africa.

In addition to the role played by Western powers, there also is the question of joint efforts on the part of the international community. In this sphere action must be taken at two levels: First, aid to SWAPO must be increased to enable it to pursue the struggle more effectively and, second, pressure must be applied on South Africa.

The Security Council is to meet in April 1981, and we hope that the council will strive to mobilize international opinion against the Pretoria regime and that--even more important--it will use its authority and prerogatives to force South Africa to abide by the UN plan.

As for the question of West Sahara, it obviously is a question which has rightly caused concern to all African countries and UN members. This is not a new problem, since it has been discussed at the United Nations for many years and since the United Nations has always recognized the right of all peoples to self-determination. As its resolutions have shown, the OAU has adopted a similar attitude. I believe that, for the sake of peace and security in the region, the Maghreb itself, the Saharan people and also cooperation and harmony in both Africa and the world, a just solution must be found to this problem--a solution which, above all, must take into account the West Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence.

The Indian Ocean--a peace zone

[Salim Ahmad Salim] Turning the Indian Ocean into a peace zone is of vital interest not only for Tanzania but also for all African and Asian countries. We have become very alarmed at the escalation of international tension and its ramifications in the Indian Ocean. As advocates of the creation of a peace zone in the Indian Ocean, we supported the Colombo conference. We hope that UN resolutions will be scrupulously respected despite the present tension between the big powers, because we believe that the militarization of the region is contrary to the interests of countries bordering the ocean, to the spirit of the Nonaligned Movement and, more generally, to the resolutions adopted by the international community.

Extra-African intervention on the continent

[Salim Ahmad Salim] Tanzania's attitude to this problem is clear, we are against any foreign intervention and we have often said so. However, I must state that there is an obvious difference between foreign intervention aimed at recolonizing and destabilizing the continent and aid given by non-African countries in support of African peoples' desire for self-determination and independence. Throughout the history of the liberation struggle in Africa many non-African countries have been asked for help. Such help was justified in the past and is justified now because it forms part of a joint struggle by the entire international community.

New world economic order

[Salim Ahmad Salim] Frankly, we have been very concerned by everything we have observed in recent years--years marked by an escalation in rhetoric to the detriment of the need to establish a new economic order. Since I had the privilege of chairing the 1980 UN extraordinary session during which this question and that of initiating global negotiations were discussed, I am in a position to state that prospects for a renewal are not bright. It is inconceivable to think of any breakthrough.

It is a matter of importance, however, that Third World countries continue to strive in a concrete manner to implement this objective, and one of the ways of achieving this is to make economic cooperation among our countries a reality instead of using it as a slogan.

We therefore believe that South-Sorth cooperation will strengthen our position in negotiations with developed countries. We will prepare at a ministerial level (EL MOUDJAHID note: in Vienna on 14-15 March) for the summit to take place in Mexico, which will provide a unique opportunity for a serious dialogue, following the failure of the process of negotiations for a new economic order as a result of a lack of political will on the part of certain Western countries. Consequently, the Mexico summit will not be a substitute for global negotiations but will serve as catalyst for promoting serious discussions.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

STRIKE CALLS REPORTED LARGELY IGNORED IN BANGUI

AB231250 Paris AFP in French 1059 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Bangui, 23 Mar (AFP)--The general strike started by opponents of President Dacko's regime was only slightly observed on Monday in Bangui. A certain amount of absenteeism was noted, however, in the public services, observers note in the Central African capital. According to these observers, it seems that the instructions given by the secretary general of the General Union of Central African Workers, UGTC, Mr Sani Cole, on Sunday, asking the population to resume normal work, have been heeded by the majority of workers.

Leaders of the four opposition parties have also called on their supporters not to demonstrate but to play the democratic game.

In the center of the capital as well as in the troubled outlying quarters, patrolled by the army because of the state of emergency which has been declared, the markets shops and banks are back to normal activities.

On Sunday night, some shots were fired by the military to prevent the inhabitants of Bangui from breaking the curfew, it was learned from an authorized source. Although the Bangui airport, whose runways and installations are being guarded by Central African and French troops, has not been closed, no airline's plane has landed since Friday. This appears to be due to a strike by officials of the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar, ASECNA. French troops are protecting the French Embassy and the ambassador's residence.

CHAD

PRESIDENT TOURS SOUTHERN PART OF COUNTRY

AB201547 Paris AFP in French 1222 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 Mar (AFP)--The Chadian president, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, during his one-week tour of the southern part of the country stated that there will be no merger of Chad and Libya, and that the Libyan troops will leave the country as soon as there is security.

The Chadian head of state stressed that war was over in Chad, but that France and Egypt were threatening the country's frontiers. He added that the Libyan Army, which intervened on the request of the Ndjamena government, will leave the country as soon as the Chadian integrated national army is formed and can ensure the defense of a besieged territory. He said that specialists are providing such training and this is going well.

The president of the Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, held meetings in all the five southern regions, and met the top officials, to whom he explained the political and economic situation of the country as well as its external relations. Most of the top southern officials stressed that because of the international situation the GUNT should study the conditions for the withdrawal of the Libyan troops from Chad. They pointed out that Chad should not adopt a policy of exclusiveness, but one of cooperation open to all countries, including France. President Goukouni then told them that there will be no merger of Chad and Libya, and he affirmed that there are no Russians or East Germans in Chad.

The Chadian minister of foreign affairs, Mr Ahmat Acyl, on his part disclosed that during the war, the GUNT asked for help from France, Nigeria, Niger, Algeria and Saudi Arabia in vain. Only Libya responded favorably, he said.

At Sahr, (Central Chari) soon before his departure for Ndjamena President Goukouni stated that despite the reserved position of Nigeria, Chad should have close relations with this neighboring country.

This visit of President Goukouni Oueddei to the five southern regions had been prepared at length in collaboration with Chol Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, vice president of the GUNT and also leader of the southern faction in the government. This was the first official tour of Mr Goukouni, a northerner and Muslim, (native of Tibesti) to the region of Sara, dominated by Christians and animists and where French cooperation has never ceased. According to concordant but different sources, 70 million CFA francs (1.4 million French francs) were released for the substantive organization of this tour the importance and the stakes of which the president of the GUNT did not hide. Exceptional measures were taken to ensure the security of the head of state and the approximately 80 people who accompanied him. All the ministers from the south returned to their various constituencies to prepare to welcome him, while most of the remaining took part in the tour. About 50 armed militiamen followed the presidential delegation and at each stage, an impressive number of soldiers armed with brand new heavy weapons and thousands of militamen ensured security on the orders of Colonel Kamougue.

During his meetings, President Goukouni made statements which received a favorable reply from the southern population, especially on the full application of the Lagos accords, the organization of free èlections, and the secularizing of the Chadian state, as well as the payment of salaries to all civil servants as of the end of March.

In another development, President Goukouni deplored the fact that Chad is ruled by different armed factions which make up the GUNT, and he reaffirmed the need for all these factions to stop dividing up the nation in order that the authority of the GUNT might be established throughout the country.

War Prisoners To Return

AB202019 Paris AFP in French 1348 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 Mar (AFP)--President Goukouni Oueddei has announced during a tour of the southern region of Chad that within 2 weeks all former war prisoners will have returned to their home regions.

The president of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) however stated that since the downfall of Ndjamena, those persons had been held in the zones where they had been captured in order to have them take part in the peaceKeeping operation. He added that they had never been considered as prisoners.

President Goukouni, who was hinting at the insecurity prevailing in some regions neighboring Sudan, said that in spite of the permeability of the frontiers, these prisoners will return home within 2 weeks. For his part, the GUNT vice president, Lt Col Abdelkader Kamougue, has stated that it was high time that these people living in prison in very bad and inadmissible conditions should be set free. Sources in Ndjamena say most of these prisoners are soldiers of the former Chadian national army and people of southern origins, who had been living in the north and in the east of Chad before the civil war broke out.

GHANA

CONCERN EXPRESSED ABOUT IVORIAN EMBASSY INCIDENT

AB231850 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] The government has expressed concern about the students' invasion of the Ivory Coast Embassy in Accra in protest against the death of 46 Ghanaians in the Ivory Coast. An official statement issued in Accra this afternoon says the government has conveyed its deepest regret to the Ivory Coast Government and given assurances that the incident in no way reflects the Ghana Government's approach to the resolution of the problems created by the death of the Ghanaians. The statement said police guards have been posted at the embassy and other precautions will be taken to avoid their repetition.

Earlier in the day, students of the country's three universities held a massive demonstration in Accra in protest against the death of 46 Ghanaian fishermen. They marched through the principal streets of the city to the Ivory Coast Embassy where they removed the Ivory Coast flag and smashed windows. The students set the embassy on fire, burning several files and documents and furniture. The office of the ambassador, Mr Denis Coffie-Bile, who is now in the Ivory Coast for consultations, was partly destroyed by fire. The students disconnected telephone lines, smashed the portraits of President Houphouet-Boigny and ransacked the offices of the embassy.

Before the students reached the embassy, mounted policemen had cordoned off the building and blocked the two entrances. They later allowed the student leaders to present a protest note to the charge d'affaires, (Mr Charles Koffi). It was at this stage that things went out of hand, and the students rushed into the building. The embassy staff, mostly women, had to make their way in an armored car.

In a two-point resolution presented to the charge d'affaires, the students demanded that the Ivorian Government render an unqualified apology to the government and people of Ghana and that the Ivory Coast Government should compensate the families of the deceased. They demanded that the bodies of the 46 Ghanaians be exhumed for proper postmortem examination and subsequent burial in Ghana. The students later went to the castle where they presented a strongly worded protest note to the vice president, Dr de Graft-Johnson.

The students said they had learned with utter shock and dismay the recent massacre of the 46 Ghanaians. They said while condemning the brutal acts of the Ivorian authorities, they demanded a restoration of sanity into the economy. The students also called for an unqualified apology from the Ivorian authorities, the exhumation of the bodies for proper medical examination and the payment of compensation to the families of the deceased by the Ivorian government.

Receiving the protest note, the vice president said the government has sent a formal protest note to the Ivory Coast authorities on the death of the 46 Ghanaians. He cautioned that although the government views the incident with serious concern, Ghanaians should not do anything to undermine the brotherly relations between Ghana and the Ivory Coast. He noted that there were some 250,000 Ghanaians residing in the Ivory Coast and nothing should be done to jeopardize their stay there.

Touching on the economic situation in Ghana which has driven some nationals to leave the country, Dr de Graft-Johnson assured the students that the government is taking the necessary steps to ensure that the economy is revived. He urged the students to use their student power to motivate all Ghanaians to get involved in the resuscitation of the economy.

The students also marched to the passport office where they beat up the director, Mr Yaw Adu. They explained that they took the action because the director was responsible for the plight of Ghanaians in neighboring countries.

CHIEFS, PRESS REACT TO IVORY COAST DEATHS

AB240815 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] The National House of Chiefs has called on the government to take strong diplomatic and other measures compatible with the seriousness of the tragic deaths of the 46 Ghanaians in the Ivory Coast. In a note to the president and signed by its president, Nana Agyeman Badu, the house also asked the government to take all necessary steps to protect the lives and property of Ghanaian citizens abroad.

The house however expressed support for the measures already taken by the government. It also conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased.

DAILY GRAPHIC Comment

AB231525 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The DAILY GRAPHIC gives prominence to the nondenominational service held for the 46 Ghanaians killed in the Ivory Coast. The paper carries two pictures on its front page, one showing the president, Dr Limann, flanked by the vice president, the chief justice, the speaker of Parliament, the chairman of the council of state and the minister of foreign affairs singing at the service. The second picture shows the president laying a wreath after the memorial service.

In a front-page comment with the headline, "A Stab in the Back," the GRAPHIC observes that officially the three days of mourning has ended but Ghanaians continue to mourn the barbaric tragic fate of their brethren. It writes: We are mourning not because we love doing so, but the thought of the incident sends torrents of blood through our dilated arteries and veins. It is unbelievable, yes it is, that a member of our own extended family, in a sister state to be precise, should stab us in the back. The world would not have been shocked if a stranger, a country outside the African continental group, had treated Ghanaians the way the Ivorians have callously done. Continuing, the paper writes, Ghana's first president, the late Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah, had intended an Organization of African Unity of African states, that would take the nationals of each other state as members of a large family, one people with one common destiny. Consequently, Nkrumah viewed the problems of other African states in the context of the OAU. That explains why Ghana did not hesitate to share her resources in the early sixties with other African states, which were in need of political, economic and moral support in their struggle for social progress, self-determination and socio-political-economic emancipation.

The GRAPHIC goes on, one basic insurance any family has is the extension of assistance, aid and support to any of its members who finds himself or herself in a crisis. Ghana expected her brothers and sisters in the extended African family to come to her aid, now that she finds herself unable to make ends meet. One thought moral support would not have been denied Ghana if material assistance was not available but instead of material or moral support she has persecution as her reward from those she has helped to wean.

Concluding, the GRAPHIC says, Ghana's role in the formation of the OAU, in the institutionalization of the African personality and consciousness has placed her in an enviable position in international politics. Even in her stark poverty, Ghana is still a force to reckon with. It is this development that makes Ghana and her children vulnerable to treachery, barbarism and tragedy. We are a decent people. We do not believe in vindictiveness, but while we continue mourning the unjustified murder of our people by the Ivorian authorities, we wish to register in strong terms our indignation and disgust at the brutal treatment being meted out to our people in other countries. May our 46 brothers find peace in the bosom of God.

GUINEA-BISSAU

FORMER COMMERCE MINISTER UNDER HOUSE ARREST

LD202142 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 20 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Guinea Bissau--Armando Ramos, former Guinea-Bissau commissioner of commerce, industry and handicrafts, has been placed under house arrest following a decision by the Council of the Revolution.

The official information media in Bissau which gave this information also said two other senior officers had been arrested. They are Francisco Coutinho and Adelino Moreira, respectively director general and deputy director of people's shops.

It is reported that the commissioner of commerce, industry and handicrafts was accused of negligence in his duties, and of embezzling state funds and employing incorrect management procedures. His deputy, Adelino Moreira, was accused of complicity in these crimes.

The official Guinea-Bissau information media said the detention of these three individuals follows investigations of corruption initiated soon after the coup d'etat of 14 November, 1980.

NIGERIA

MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON UN CONTINGENT DEATHS

AB240940 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] The federal government says it will review the continued service of its contingent in the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon, UNIFIL, if the world body cannot guarantee the soldiers' safety. This was contained in a statement issued yesterday by the minister of external affairs. It recalled with dismay the death of two Nigerian soldiers with UNIFIL who were killed in Lebanon. Eleven others were wounded.

The ministry had summoned the American ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Stephen Low, to inform him of the government's dismay at the United States' attempt to frustrate the Security Council's debate on the killing of two Nigerian soldiers.

DAILY SEES TRYING TIMES FOR AFRICA UNDER REAGAN

AB241024 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The NEW NIGERIAN comments on recent actions and utterances of the Reagan regime and believes that they are signs of trying days ahead for Africa. For instance, it says that President Reagan's cancellation of grain shipments to Mozambique portrays nothing but that regime's aggressive policy toward Africa. The paper reminds all those who claim to be friendly with Africa that such a relationship cannot last as long as they continue to support apartheid in the continent.

CONCORD CRITICIZES EGYPTIAN ARMS AID TO HABRE

AB210943 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The reported arms supply to the former Chadian defense minister by Egypt worries the NATIONAL CONCORD. The paper sees Egypt's assistance as a reaction to the one offered President Oueddei by Libya. The Egyptian move is counterproductive and will prolong rather than shorten the Libyan stay in Chad, the CONCORD concludes.

INCREASE IN ILLEGAL ARMS, AMMUNITION TRAFFIC NOTED

AB230958 Paris AFP in English 0931 GMT 23 Mar 81

[By Toyin Chiahemen]

[Text] Lagos, 23 Mar (AFP)--Nigeria has witnessed an alarming jump in illegal imports of arms and ammunition in the past eight months, a trend that has gone hand in hand with an increase armed robbery in the country. Customs officials complain that they lack the sophisticated gadgets needed to detect smugglers at the airport, while a senior immigration officer recently highlighted a lack of staff on one of the country's borders.

The Nigerian Senate, for its part, has ordered its Internal Affairs Committee to make an in-depth investigation into the wave of armed robbery that has caused loss of life and property throughout the country. The weapons, which are smuggled in by students and businessmen, seem to be coming from the United States and Britain. Many weapons seem to originate from Texas.

Reports in the newspapers here speak of at least 50 arrests and the seizure of [words indistinct] prohibited weapons and rounds of ammunition, in different parts of the country over the past two years. Some reports added that illegal firearms factories have been discovered, in particular in the south of the country.

In 1978, the then military government made it an offence for anyone, irrespective of nationality, to import or export certain categories of weapons to or from Nigeria. It banned all types of pistols and ammunition, but allowed people to bring in certain weapons, provided they had an import licence and policy permit, provided only one or two weapons were involved and provided the weapons were for bona fide security purposes. Shotguns were among the weapons in this category. Today, Nigerians are known to carry firearms freely. Interpol, the international police organization, underscored this trend recently by expressing concern over the rate at which Nigerians were buying arms and ammunition abroad.

The latest example of arms smuggling involved three Nigerians studying in the United States. Newspaper reports here said that the three had tried to bring in 20 automatic pistols and shotguns and 3,000 rounds of ammunition. Airport security sources said that the students had hidden the weapons in cosmetic containers and said that they had nothing to declare when they landed at Lagos international airport.

In another incident, a Nigerian was arrested at Houston International Airport in the United States while attempting to export a large quantity of arms and ammunition to Nigeria. Press reports described him as a habitual gun smuggler. In a third incident, a Lagos University under-graduate, who was arrested by customs officials after trying to smuggle arms throught the international airport here, reportedly tried to bribe his way out.

One suspected arms smuggler meanwhile maintained that he was serving as a middle man for a major in the Nigerian Army, who was to have met him along with two businessmen at the airport. The three would have taken the weapons on payment, the suspect reportedly said.

Arms smugglers bring in the weapons and ammunitition in a number of different ways. A senior immigration officer, speaking at a town on the border between Nigeria and neighboring Niger, recently revealed that there were more than 1,000 unofficial routes across the border. There were only 10 immigration officers, 28 customs men and one officer of the Nigerian Security Organization (NSO) to patrol that border area, he added. Almost all Nigeria's national daily newspapers have carried editorials calling for a review of the country's security network. This was needed to prevent further embarassment over the now regular reports of illegal arms imports, they said.

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL SENDS MESSAGE TO MAURITANIAN LEADER

LD211622 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 21 Mar 81 EA

[Text] President Samora Machel, has sent a message to the president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Muhammad Khouna Ould Haydala, expressing indignation against and repudiation of the coup attempt on 16 March to overthrow the Mauritanian Government.

In the message the People's Republic of Mozambique president said that the Moroccan-backed attempt to overthrow the legal Mauritanian Government was a further expression of the Rabat government's expansionism and of its total disregard for the UN and OAU Charters and other most elementary rules of international law. The Mozambique head of state also said in the message to the president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania that with this attempt the expansionist Moroccan Government, with imperialism's support, was trying to widen the conflict in the region as a means to cover up the defeats it had been suffering in its war of aggression against the heroic people of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic who were liberated by the Polisario Front.

SOUTH AFRICA

DIRK MUDGE DISCUSSES VISIT TO UNITED STATES

LD221156 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] The chairman of the South-West African ministers' council, Mr Dirk Mudge, says he expects there will be more negotiations soon on South-West Africa in which the internal parties will play an important role.

Interviewed on his return to Windhoek from a visit to the United States, Mr Mudge said that everyone wanted to have the talks continue. In the United States he had found an understanding of the view of the internal parties that they wanted to represent themselves and that South Africa should not always act as a go-between. Mr Mudge said he had gained the impression that at present South-West Africa was not considered a crisis situation. In his talks with American leaders Angola had enjoyed considerable interest. He definitely expected the United States to take steps regarding Angola, because the American Government was not prepared to allow the Russians, the East Germans and Cubans to continue the role they had been playing in Africa. Mr Mudge said the visit which he and three other members of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance had just completed had been the most fruitful he had ever undertaken to any country in the Free World. He believed that the clearer understanding he had found in the United States on the question of South-West Africa would filter through to other Western nations.

PROTEST SENT TO MOZAMBIQUE OVER SHOOTING INCIDENT

LD231108 Johannesburg International Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The South African Department of Foreign Affairs has protested to the Mozambique Ministry of Foreign Affairs about a shooting incident on the border which reportedly led to the death of a South African Defense Force corporal. In the letter the department points out that due to a navigational and map-reading error a small South African border unit accidentally strayed across an unmarked part of the common border at Ponta do Ouro. The letter says the international border in this area is demarcated by way of beacons which are located up to 8,000 meters from each other. Due to the vagueness of the border at this point a member of the South African unit, Cpl P. J. Viljoen, proceeded to a higher vantage point to establish his unit's position.

At that stage two armed Mozambique borderguards appeared on the scene and because of a language barrier they failed to make themselves understood. When the leader of the South African unit summoned Corporal Viljoen back, the Mozambique guards opened fire and shot him.

The letter points out that in the past when Mozambicans have crossed the border into South Africa the South African authorities have avoided such drastic action. They therefore strongly protest against the attack on Corporal Viljoen, which according to reports are correct; then the South African authorities will be grateful to learn what arrangements can be made to return his body to South Africa. [sentence as heard]

JOHANNESBURG CARRIES COMMANDER'S WARNING TO ANGOLA

LD201720 Johannesburg International Service in English 1115 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpts] The defense force in South-West Africa is adopting a far more aggressive stance in response to continued threats from SWAPO and its leader, Sam Nujoma, of intensifying the armed conflict. Clive (Mocka) reports from the capital, Windhoek:

It is quite apparent that the security forces in South-West Africa, Namibia, have decided that they are going to pick up the gauntlet Sam Nujoma has been throwing down at lavish dinner parties and press conferences all over Europe and inside the Soviet bloc. The raid on the big base at Lubango, formerly known as Sa Da Baneira, on Tuesday has again emphasized that the forces in South-West Africa mean business.

In Windhoek I asked the general officer commanding the territory forces, Maj Gen Charles Lloyd, whether the security forces were taking a firmer line against SWAPO:

[Begin recording] [Lloyd] In view of our recent security operations I would like to reiterate what I have said before. The Government of South-West Africa is responsible for the security of the people of the country and the security forces are there to protect them against SWAPO's terrorist activities. We will not hesitate to take whatever steps are deemed necessary to perform our duty. The Angolan Government and the Angolan security forces have been warned at various occasions not to assist SWAPO or to allow them to operate from Angolan territory against targets in South-West Africa. I would like to repeat this warning once again in all sincerity. As things are at present we have no other choice than to act strongly against our enemies. [end recording]

ZIMBABWE, SWAZILAND 'CANNOT SUPPORT SANCTIONS'

LD201132 Johannesburg International Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Mar 81 CA

[Text] Zimbabwe and Swaziland have said again that they cannot support sanctions against South Africa because they are dependent on the South African economy. In Salisbury the prime minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe, said at a news conference held jointly with the chairman of the OAU, President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, that Zimbabwe could not take part in sanctions against South Africa at this stage but he would not stand in the way if the United Nations introduced sanctions against South Africa.

The Swaziland foreign minister, Mr Dlamini, has said in response to a question in Parliament in Mbabane that his country had to adopt a pragmatic policy regarding South Africa because it is dependent on the South African economy. Swaziland would not allow the ANC and the Pan-Africanist Congress to use its territory as a springboard for attacks on South Africa.

CAPRIVI INCIDENTS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH BOTSWANA

LD201942 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The director general of foreign affairs, Dr Brant Fourie, says contact has been established between South Africa and Botswana to resolve, on a localized level, alleged border incidents between the two countries. The incidents allegedly occurred on the two countries' common border in the Caprivi. Earlier, Botswana alleged that there had been an exchange of fire between Botswanan troops and uniformed men in the Caprivi strip. Dr Fourie said: We are in contact with Gaborone on a local level to solve these matters.

ZAMBIA

SIAKA STEVENS, KUANDA ADDRESS REGIONAL ISSUES

Kaunda Dinner Statements

LD201146 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 81 CA

[Text] President Kaunda last night called upon the Western contact groups of five on Namibia to help South Africa come back to its senses as it is creating an extremely dangerous situation for world peace. Speaking at a dinner for visiting Sierra Leone President Dr Siaka Stevens, at State House, Dr Kaunda said South Africa's hawkish attitude and intransigent behavior was a danger not only to the security of Africa but the international peace as well. He said South Africa cannot reverse the liberation of people in Namibia and South Africa but only delay their freedom, but that this will inevitably come, no matter how long it takes. Dr Kaunda said they prefer that it comes early and peacefully because in this way there are bound to be harmonious relations between the peoples of all races. He warned that if freedom was delayed and comes through the barrel of the gun the seeds of hatred and suspicion will have been sown.

Joint Communique

LD211408 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 20 Mar 81 CA

[Text] Zambia and Sierra Leone have called on the working masses of South Africa to resort to industrial action as an effective way of weakening the [words indistinct] of the apartheid regime. In a joint communique signed in Lusaka today between President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone and President Kaunda the two agreed that in addition to the armed struggle in Namibia the working masses of South Africa should now resort to industrial action. They also called upon the Western contact group of five to exert pressure on South Africa with a view to facilitating speedy implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia as provided for by the Security Council resolution of 1978. They further called for more material, political, diplomatic and moral support to the liberation movements and the frontline states from all friendly countries and organizations.

The joint communique was issued at the end of Dr Steven's 1-day official visit to Zambia during which the two leaders held talks on a wide range of bilateral, continental and international issues. They reviewed the situation in southern Africa and strongly condemned South Africa for her aggression against the frontline states and expressed concern over South Africa's refusal to implement the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. They also reviewed the situation in Western Sahara and reaffirmed their belief in the inlienable right of the people of that territory to self-determination. They expressed support for the current initiatives aimed at bringing about a peaceful solution to the Chadian people.

The two leaders closely examined the economic situation in Africa and agreed that there was need for enhancing regional economic cooperation amongst African states. Presidents Kaunda and Stevens expressed great concern at the adverse effects of escalating oil prices on the economies of developing countries, especially in Africa.

At the end of his visit Dr Stevens, who is also the current chairman of the OAU, expressed gratitude to his host for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and his entourage. President Kaunda praised his guest for keeping the OAU together through constant contacts with the various member states. Dr Stevens left Zambia this morning on a continued tour of OAU member states.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE MESSAGE TO REAGAN ON 'CONFLICT SITUATIONS'

LD211122 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 20 Mar 81 CA

["Full text" of message to President Reagan from Prime Minister Mugabe, written 12 March]

[Text] Dear President Reagan: Events in southern Africa prompt (?me to send you) this brief message expressing the concern of my government and the people over them with a view to soliciting your support in reversing their negative trends. I refer, in the main, to three conflict situations in all of which the apartheid regime of South Africa is the guilty and unrelenting party. I briefly analyse these situations of conflict for you as follows:

A. Namibia: For years the South African regime has unjustly denied the people of Namibia their fundamental rights to the sovereignty of their country by continuing its occupation of Namibia against their wishes and the wishes of the international community as expressed through the numerous resolutions passsed by the United Nations. Recently, the Namibia conference held in Geneva was, to the utter disgust of all progressive communities desiring a settlement in Namibia, turned by South Africa and its puppet internal groups in Namibia into a forum for provocative and besmirching propaganda against the United Nations and SWAPO. The conference thus failed to work out modalities for the implementation of Resolution 435 passed in 1978 by the Security Council.

It is our belief that South Africa's intransigence in Namibia is inspired by her belief that she has in your administration a staunch supporter of her retrograde policies. To her, the escalation of the liberation war and the heavy tally of life it is claiming is of little consequence. She will not learn from the history of our own recent bitter struggle in which she failed in her endeavours to prop up the Smith-Muzorewa regime with both massive arms and troops. Surely, Mr President, the United States as a big power with (?enormous) influence on South Africa, must be seen to be playing a positive role in ensuring that South Africa accedes to the wishes of the people of Namibia and the international community.

B. South Africa: The philosophy of apartheid, which is the ideological basis of the political and socioeconomic policies that have been pursued by the South African regime since the late 1940's, has caused untold human suffering in South Africa. Civil liberties such as are enshrined in the American Declaration of Rights, as indeed they are also enshrined in our own constitution, are anathema to the apartheid regime. Hence numerous cases of arbitrary arrest, detention without trial and assassination of detainees by police. Once again it is our belief that effective, practical opposition of the policies of apartheid by the United States and its pronounced support of the democratic and progressive forces within and without South Africa struggling against apartheid would help destroy apartheid and pave the way to democracy in the country.

C. Armed aggression and sabotage against neighboring states: My country, only recently independent, has like all the other frontline states expressed its commitment to the principle of good-neighborliness and peaceful coexistence with its neighbors. We are, however, disturbed that the apartheid regime of South Africa, instead of reciprocating our peaceful international posture with an equally peaceful posture, has been engaging herself in well-planned acts of naked aggression and sabotage against us, her neighbors. To this day South Africa continues to harbor several thousand Zimbabwean nationals whom she has recruited for no other purposes than those aimed at using them (?as forces) opposed to my government by engaging them in acts of economic sabotage and other forms of insurgency directed at destabilizing our democratic system.

It would undoubtedly assist our current endeavors to mobilize our people and entire resources for our crucial development program without diverting our economy to the defense of our territorial integrity and political systems against South African aggression if your administration were to voice its criticism and condemnation of these hostile adventures by South Africa.

Mr President, sir, I write this letter as leader of a country that has experienced one of the bitterest wars in which the majority of our people fought for freedom and democracy against the minority which had for decades sought to perpetuate a racial and undemocratic system under which it oppressed the vast majority of our society. The majority has now won that just fight and today my government, representing that majority, has in the spirit of reconciliation and national unity accepted the minority which once oppressed it as partners in our new endeavor to build a new society. I am in no doubt that our experience would be repeated in Namibia and South Africa if those states achieved democracy.

I hope, Mr President, that you will take this message in the spirit in which it has been sent and accordingly be prompted by it to come to the assistance of those of us who are working for justice and peace in southern Africa. The issues are clear, and so one hopes that your position of a country renowned for democracy cannot be otherwise than equivocal [as heard]. We cannot equivocate about the right of self-determination for the Namibian people and the need to work out an immediate democratic process for the attainment of independence in Namibia. We cannot equivocate about the evils of apartheid and the minority rule in South Africa and the right of the people of South Africa to liberty, equality and fraternity. We cannot equivocate about the right of South Africa's neighbors to their territorial integrity, sovereignty and the freedom to pursue their own political and democratic systems without interference. I trust that these are to both of us matters of fundamental principle on which our consciences as well as our views are in agreement and where our voices are, accordingly, equivocal.

PRIME MINISTER VIEWS U.S.-PRETORIA RELATIONS

LD201306 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, says the United States has to decide whether it stands with the people of Africa in their endeavors toward self-determination or if it stands with the side of the Pretoria regime. Comrade Mugabe, who was speaking at a joint news conference with the President of Sierra Leone and current chairman of the OAU, Dr Stevens, said that if the Reagan administration stood with the Pretoria regime it was therefore against us.

The prime minister said the United States and the rest of the Western world remains silent in the face of aggression by South Africa toward its neighboring states. Comrade Mugabe said we are disgusted that the Pretoria regime is allowed to proceed with impunity with the acts of aggression against southern African states. He said the regime feels that the Western powers support it.

Comrade Mugabe said the West should condemn them. The prime minister said the Pretoria regime is incapable of manufacturing aircraft or producing its own arms. It was only able to do so under licence from Britain, France and other NATO organization countries.

Speaking at the joint news conference the president of Sierra Leone, Dr Stevens, said the Pretoria regime is like a drowning man who will grab at anything to help himself. He said that when one has no option one will (?take) anything to help oneself. Earlier, the two leaders issued a joint communique covering their 2 days of talks. The two leaders agreed to improve bilateral relations between their two countries in the fields of technical cooperation, manpower planning and diplomatic relations.

MUGABE ASKS REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT OAU

LD201312 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 19 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, today called on the Reagan administration to support the Organization of African Unity in its struggle for independence in Namibia and majority rule in South Africa. The prime minister was speaking at a joint news conference in Salisbury this morning at the end of a 2-day official visit by President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone. Comrade Mugabe urged the Reagan administration not to back the reactionary forces fighting the legitimate government in Angola.

Reacting to the recent raid into Mozambique by the racist South African forces, Comrade Mugabe expressed his deepest concern and disgust over the regime's continued policy of naked aggression against the frontline states. The prime minister strongly criticized the Western powers for supplying weapons to the regime's forces, which have become the major destabilizing factor in the southern African region. Comrade Mugabe added: The West cannot remain neutral. It is time they identified themselves whether as enemies or friends of the OAU. He questioned the intentions of the West in their efforts to help create peace in the region. The prime minister added that Zimbabwe will strongly support the imposition of international sanctions on the apartheid regime in South Africa.

The Sierra Leone leader told the conference that a summit meeting of the OAU should be convened to decide on possible action to counter the Pretoria regime's policy of aggression against neighboring African states.

MANGWENDE SENDS MESSAGE TO OAU ON PRETORIA RAIDS

LD211132 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 20 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mangwende, has sent a message to the secretary general, Political Division, of the OAU, Mr Onu, on the latest South African raids into Mozambique. The message is for communication to the Mozambican foreign minister, Comrade Chissano, and other OAU member states. Comrade Mangwende said he was shocked and disgusted when he received the news of the [word indistinct] South African raid into Mozambique. He pointed out that this flagrant violation of the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Mozambique is calculated to destabilize the frontline states and to weaken regional cooperation among them. The minister added that the OAU condemns vehemently this brutal and naked act of aggression against the peace- and freedom-loving people of Mozambique. As current chairman of the OAU Liberation Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Mangwende has called on all OAU member states to condemn this inhuman act of international terrorism.